Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Niles flag football trio earns all-state honors
Page B1

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Dowagiac News

Established 1897 • Serving Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and Cassopolis **JUNE 27, 2026** leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium **$4**

Chamber welcomes Chi Ishobak to downtown Dowagiac

From left: Mayor Patrick Bakeman, Chamber President Kris Soenen, Chi Ishobak Executive Director Sean Winters, and Tammy Keller of Tammy Keller Interiors.
Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Downtown Dowagiac's newest business received a warm welcome Tuesday afternoon.

Dozens gathered at 103 S. Front Street to welcome Chi Ishobak to the community. Several chamber and community members were on hand for the open house, which included food from next door neighbors Oak + Ash. Instead of a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony, the chamber uses a ribbon tying ceremony to signify the businesses and the community coming together as one.

"This place is a beautiful piece of art," Bakeman said. "This is a warm place and we welcome you to the community. You have outdone yourselves in this space."

A Native community development organization of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Chi Ishobak is focused on empowering Tribal Citizens through affordable lending, financial education and economic opportunity. Guided by the values of self-sufficiency, integrity and cultural preservation, Chi Ishobak works to strengthen Native communities by providing tools and resources that support meaningful lives, small-business growth and long-term financial success for future generations.

"We provide capital to those that cannot access traditional institutions and can't go through banks or credit unions because of damaged credit or lack of credit," said Executive Director Sean Winters. "If you're a business, startups are very difficult but also if you're in business and you're very young, you might not have the strength or the quality of balance sheet that a bank might not feel comfortable with. We're another layer of financing."

Chi Ishobak, with help from Tammy Keller Interiors, transformed the space formerly occupied by the former Zeke's

See **CHI ISHOBAK**, page A8

Hundreds attend Cass County Pridefest

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Hundreds of people of all ages, genders and backgrounds descended on the Dowagiac Library Pavilion Saturday to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community at the annual Cass County Pridefest.

The family-friendly event featured a drag show, sponsor, non-profit and artisan booths – including Baker's Rhapsody, Cass County Democrats, Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Michigan, All-Weather Seal of Southwest Michigan, Woodlands Behavioral Health Network, Hinman Counseling Services and more – activities for children, food trucks and live entertainment.

Gerik Maverick, interim executive director at OutCenter Southwest Michigan, looks forward to Pridefest events every year. Michiana Pridefest saw hundreds turn out at Tyler Fields in Niles on June 13.

"This is just what we look forward to man. We look forward to seeing the faces, the people and families coming out. One of the things I love hearing is how warm people feel coming in because that was very much the intention here," he said. "We were looking for that local Festival feeling like Apple Fest, like so many of the downtowns, and so we really wanted our events to feel like that. Every year, we're told we hit the nail on the head, so we're very excited to keep it going."

The OutCenter has more Pride events scheduled for the area, including the fourth annual Twin Cities Pridefest from noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Shadowland Pavilion in St. Joseph.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications
Hundreds of people of all ages, genders and backgrounds convened at the Dowagiac Library Pavilion Saturday to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community at the annual Cass County Pridefest.

Don Campbell / HP staff
Louis Arata stars as John Adams in The Beckwith Theatre Company's production of "1776," which opens this weekend in Dowagiac.

'A fledgling nation'

Beckwith Theatre Company celebrates America 250 with '1776'

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
Paxton Media Group

DOWAGIAC — For director Ryan Murray, Friday's opening of the musical "1776" at the Beckwith Theatre Company will close a circle that's been on his mind for at least 15 years.

"It's a show I've wanted to be in since I first saw it on my senior trip to Washington, D.C. in the '90s," Murray said. "Beckwith was going to do it about 15 years ago and it never materialized. A couple years ago, I realized we were coming up on the 250th anniversary (of U.S. independence) – and I remembered the Bicentennial as a kid (in 1976). So we just planned on it, and it happened."

"1776" takes a musical look at the conflicts that drove colonial America to seek its independence from Great Britain. Future President John Adams plays a major role in the production, as he prods his colleagues to move forward.

The musical takes place in Philadelphia, Pa., as the Second Continental Congress gathers to debate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and, in doing so, makes some basic decisions about how the new nation will function.

"'1776' puts a human face on the pages of history, as we see the men behind the national icons: proud, frightened, uncertain, irritable, charming, often petty and,

See **1776**, page A8

Data center officials to present at Dowagiac city council meeting

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Community members will soon have the opportunity to listen to representatives from Alliance Cloud Services and voice their concerns in-person.

The City of Dowagiac has announced a venue and time change for the regularly scheduled Dowagiac City Council meeting on Monday, July 13. The meeting will take place at the Dowagiac Middle School Performing Arts Center, 57072 Riverside Drive. "Data center forum" will be an item on the agenda. Community members will be able to listen to a presentation from representatives from Alliance Cloud Services, otherwise known as Hyperscale Data, Inc., regarding the company's plans for its 34.5-acre data center campus on Prairie Ronde Street.

The venue change was made to accommodate anticipated public turnout. Company representatives are expected to remain present during the public comment portion of the meeting.

City officials met with executives from ACS last month to discuss the company's plans for its Dowagiac facility. It was during that meeting that the city invited the company to participate in a public meeting. ACS currently operates approximately 30 megawatts of power capacity at the site and the company believes there is potential to expand to more than 300 MW over time.

John Stewart is President and CEO of Seismic Media Partners, a subsidiary of Hyperscale Data, and also serves as the Chief Marketing Officer for several of the divisions of Hyperscale Data. Stewart attended Monday's council meeting and spoke during the public comment section, saying the company is working to address concerns related to sound, water and sewer.

"We hope to have a lot of dialogue," Stewart said. "We want to tell everybody what our long-term plans are so everybody knows what's happening with the facility, but also what our commitment is to being a good neighbor. I'm thankful that you made the invitation. We're looking forward to the presentation."

Stewart said that he spent Monday visiting Dowagiac and meeting with community members. In addition to the presentation, community members will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns regarding the company's plans.

"We just want to make sure the residents have an opportunity to hear our presentation from our senior leadership, and also that we have the opportunity to sit and listen to comments."

Community members have expressed their concerns regarding the data center to the council over the past several months, including noise levels, water, energy and more.

Dowagiac resident David Alm said he was serving the city a legal notice Monday demanding an immediate freeze on any potential expansions of the data center, the implementation of strict municipal decibel limits and mandatory soundproofing.

"This is no longer a simple zoning dispute; it is a civil rights crisis," Alm said during public comment.

See **DATA CENTER**, page A8

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Today's obituaries • Page A3
Neil T. Carter Barbara Grady Gregory Kaniuga

Inside today's Herald-Palladium

Automotive	C6	Focus	B1	Opinion	B6
Business	C4	Food	B7	Puzzles	B4
Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C7	Television	D3

Niles celebrates Juneteenth

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Dozens of people from Niles and beyond attended the annual Juneteenth Festival Friday in Plym Park.

NILES — Hundreds of community members participated in a day of friendship, fun and education.

Dozens of people from Niles and beyond attended the annual Juneteenth Festival. Organized by Ylonda Scott of Ylonda's Women Business Retreat and Tiara Williams of Tattoo the World, the event featured a line of speakers covering topics from mental health to financial literacy to the art of song and dance, and more. Food, vendors and games were also on site. The event featured a parade and recognized area black-owned businesses and also crowned a festival king and queen. A live celebration was also held at the NODE feature music by DJ Biz.

Scott is happy to see the event grow year over year.

"People are reaching out to us when before it was us reaching out," she said. "They see that it is a family event and that it's about community and learning. It just makes my heart grow because it's the vision coming alive."

Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of the last enslaved African Americans. On June 19, 1865, word of liberation arrived in Galveston, Texas, officially ending slavery in the state. Celebrations of the holiday date back as far as 1866 in some parts of the country, gaining popularity throughout the 20th century. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden named Juneteenth a federal holiday.

For Scott, the event was a day of unity, celebration and learning.

"We think a lot of people have the information when they don't," she said. "That's what we wanted to do at each event is to bring that knowledge to them in a fun setting and love on them and have a good time."

On the other side of town, Primitiv Elevated Wellness hosted a Juneteenth celebration on site at 1286 S. 11th St. Co-owners Rob Sims and Calvin Johnson served up hot dogs and engaged with fans and community members.

"It's cool to be out here on Juneteenth celebrating," Sims said. "As an African-American business owner, it feels good. I'm out here on the grill like I normally am, feeding the people."

"It's been a good holiday," Johnson said. "Anytime we get out here, especially when we can bring our friends, guys that we played with or guys from other industries – just other professionals, you know – It brings excitement."

For Sims and Johnson, celebrating Juneteenth is personal.

"Progress to me is the biggest thing," Sims said. "It just means that now we have the ability to chase dreams that maybe we didn't before, for sure, um, you know, Juneteenth and what transpired on our day gave us a little bit of freedom and steps towards getting here. It took a series of steps to where we are right now, and this is the big one."

"Just being able to represent as one of the very few minority owners in the space – black owners – and to be more specific, to be able to represent here," Johnson added. "To have our team understand; they know who we are, and they represent in a way that's according to our values that we set forth because we all agree upon those, and I think that just them, their willingness to wear their Juneteenth shirts, and just represent and understand that we're all in this together. We're a team, and we represent diversity here. And that's important. That's me.

"My team has been open to it and being ready to follow through and go forward with that," Johnson continued. "Not only this holiday, but there's many other holidays that can be controversial that we respect, and let's say you're trying to – you got to have that diversity in the room if you want to be where you want to be and go to the places you want to go."

Registration open for Cass County School Supply Spectacular

By PMG STAFF

CASS COUNTY — Registration is now open for the 2026 School Supply Spectacular, and United Way of Southwest Michigan is asking Cass County families who could use a hand to sign up before backpacks run out.

The annual event gives local students in need a free backpack filled with age-appropriate school supplies so they can start the year ready to learn. Online registration is now open at SchoolSupplySpectacular.com. Backpacks are available to children from pre-K through 12th grade who reside in or attend school in Cass County. Supplies are limited, and registration may close early if all spots fill up, so families are encouraged to sign up right away.

Families can also text CCSSS to 41444 to be taken straight to the registration page. Standard text message rates may apply.

Only families who register in advance will be able to pick up a backpack in August. There are two pickup events this year, both running from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The first is Wednesday, Aug. 12 at Marcellus High School, 303 W. Arbor St. in Marcellus. The second is Thursday, Aug. 13 at Cassopolis Middle School, 725 Center St. in Cassopolis. Children must be present at pickup and be accompanied by an adult.

"Every year we hear from parents who are stretching every dollar just to get their kids ready for the first day," says Debbie Ramirez, Senior Director of Impact Strategies & Volunteer Engagement at United Way of Southwest Michigan. "This takes one worry off their plate. If your family could use the help, please register. That is exactly what this is here for."

Some backpacks will contain a "Golden Ticket." The lucky children who find one will take home an extra gift package along with their supplies.

The Cass County School Supply Spectacular is made possible through the generous support of community partners, donors, and volunteers. Major sponsors include American Electric Power Foundation, Michigan Gateway Community Foundation & the Youth Advisory Council, Gast Manufacturing, and the St. Denys Foundation. Series sponsors include Whirlpool Corporation, Corewell Health, Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Silver Beach Pizza, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, and BluCat Consulting. Lyons serves as gold sponsor, with Helping Hands of Cass County and Invenergy as silver sponsors and the Edward Lowe Foundation as bronze sponsor.

The event is organized by United Way of Southwest Michigan's Volunteer United program, a free service that connects volunteers with opportunities and organizations with volunteers. Any individual can create an account at volunteerunited.org and fill out a profile to be matched with future opportunities and organizations they care about. Organizations can post their own volunteer opportunities so others can sign up quickly and easily.

FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Niles' Juneteenth celebration was wonderful. Great crowd turnout. The organizers did a great job.

■ The $14 million for the reflecting pool is a slap in the face to every school teacher forced to spend money out of her own pocket to purchase supplies for her classroom.

■ Diamond Lake's fireworks start at 10:15 p.m. next Saturday night.

■ Data centers need to be kept far enough from homes so no one can hear them and we need to test for noise pollution like New Carlisle does.

■ Zach Holt is a great choice for Niles' public works director.

■ I missed my opportunity to yell "splash pad" at Mayor Shelton.

■ Downtown Dowagiac is a gem. Few towns have a nicer, more welcoming place to visit. This is truly what towns should strive for.

■ Winter, spring, road construction, fall.

WEATHER

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Monday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 92.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 74.

Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 93.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 74.

Wednesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 94.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 74.

Thursday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 95.

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Dowagiac OKs street improvement project

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Key city streets in need of improvements will soon receive proper maintenance. The council voted to approve an engineering services proposal from Prein&Newhof for the Hill and South Street resurfacing project in an amount not to exceed $117,000.

According to council documents, Hill Street (Cass Avenue to Riverside Drive) and South Street (Cass Avenue to Lincoln Street) were identified for pavement improvements as part of the city's ongoing street capital improvement program.

"We have received some grant funding through the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to resurface Hill Street and a variety of local streets in that area in the 2027 fiscal year," said Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh. "As part of that, we are going to need to do the final steps of the engineering process. So, this is just a contract with Prein & Newhof to finalize the engineering for that project."

The project includes pavement resurfacing, ADA-compliant curb ramp improvements and related ancillary work. The project does not include curb and gutter replacement, sidewalk replacement, or underground utility improvements. Hill Street is programmed for Fiscal Year 2027 federal funding, while South Street is programmed for Fiscal Year 2029 federal funding.

To improve efficiency and reduce project costs, the City intends to utilize the advance construct option, allowing both street segments to be constructed as a single project in 2027. Under this approach, the City will initially fund 100 percent of the South Street portion and receive the applicable federal reimbursement when FY29 funds become available.

Prein & Newhof will provide all services required for MDOT Local Agency Program compliance and project delivery, including:

- Environmental review and regulatory coordination
- Topographic survey and subsurface investigation
- Roadway and ADA ramp design
- Preparation of construction plans, specifications, and bidding documents
- MDOT coordination and application support
- Construction administration and observation
- Quality assurance testing and staking
- Preparation of record drawings

Engineering work will begin immediately, with bidding scheduled for June 2027 and construction anticipated in Fall 2027. Funding for engineering services is included within the project budget and will be incorporated into the federally funded street improvement program.

In other business, the council approved a purchase agreement for property located at 513 S. Front St. Since 2021, the City of Dowagiac has been actively working to address blight and encourage redevelopment along the South Front Street corridor. As part of this effort, the City acquired several parcels adjacent to the former Electric Barn and secured grant funding for the demolition of the existing structures. The resulting redevelopment parcel has been marketed as a future residential development site. Since that time, the city has continued to invest in the area through several initiatives. The city believes the parcel will further enhance redevelopment opportunities by increasing the size and visibility of the development site.

The South Front Street Streetscape Project is currently underway and construction of the South Front Street Park is scheduled to begin this fall. As part of the agreement, the seller would be permitted to occupy the home until September 2026, after which the City would take full possession of the property.

"This is part of the ongoing steps of the redevelopment of South Front Street," said City Manager Kevin Anderson. You can see the project going on right now with the reconstruction of the road. This is property adjacent to the properties that the city currently owns. It's an old piece of property in need of much repair. This will allow us to buy the property and be able to continue redevelopment."

In further business, the council:

- Passed a resolution authorizing execution and delivery of an installment purchase agreement for a new fire truck. The council authorized the purchase of a 2018 fire truck from Beaverton Area Fire Department in the amount of $555,000 during its June 8 meeting. The resolution approved Monday authorized the installment purchase agreement.
- Approved social district permit applications for Oak & Ash BBQ, Woodfire Trattoria and Wounded Minnow for state approval.
- Approved a professional services proposal from GHD for annual residential well sampling for 2026 regarding the former landfill on Nubour Road in the amount of $33,595.

OBITUARIES

Barbara Grady

July 22, 1934 – June 16, 2026

Barbara A. Goins, age 91, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 16, 2026, after a courageous fight to the very end, reflecting the strength and determination she carried throughout her life. Barbara was born on July 22, 1934, in Calvin Township, Cassopolis, Michigan, on Chain Lake Road. She was delivered by Dr. Otis Newsome and was the beloved daughter of Henry Goins and Laura Belle (Franklin) Goins.

Barbara was married to Seth Smith, whom she met at Walgreens in Chicago, Illinois. They were married at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, while Seth was in the Army. They moved from Chicago, Illinois to Bloomingdale, Michigan, where they raised their four children. She later rekindled her relationship and married her teenage sweetheart, Albert "Boonie" Grady.

Barbara was full of life and style, with a personality that could light up any room. At 4 feet 9 inches tall, she stood strong, never backing down and always speaking her mind. She didn't take any mess from anyone, and people respected her for it. Barbara loved to look good; her hair, nails, and makeup were always done before she stepped out. She enjoyed shopping and fashion, and she carried herself with confidence and pride. Looking her best wasn't just something she did; it was who she was. When family and loved ones called or stopped by to check on her, her favorite response was, "Not bad for a young chicken."

Throughout her life, Barbara held several roles. She worked as a bartender at the Talk of the Town Bar in Chicago, Illinois, served as a school bus driver for Bloomingdale Public Schools for ten years, worked as a packaging specialist at Perrigo in Allegan, Michigan, and retired from General Motors (Fisher Body), where she was a proud member of UAW Local 488 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Barbara is survived by her children, Stephen Smith Sr. of Middlesex, New York; Plato (Joyce) E. Smith Sr. of Covert, Michigan; Seth Smith Jr. of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Saztec (Allison) Smith of Lawton, Michigan; Sheena (Edwin) Johnson (Smith–Underwood) of Cassopolis, Michigan; and Cathy (Larry) Ash of Plainwell, Michigan.

She leaves behind a large and loving legacy, including her grandchildren: Stephen Smith Jr., Stephanie Smith Clegg Viseversa, Mia (Alex) Smith-Arguijo, Shannon (April) Fitzhugh, Plato Smith Jr., Torreanno Smith, Annisha (Sam) Solis, Dennis (Dawn) Underwood III, Matthew (Lisa) Underwood, Curt (Tonya) Underwood, Maria Johnson, Edwin (Rachel) Johnson IV, Janet (Lydell) Little, Catrinka (Raynaldo) Johnson; Jessie Ward Jr.; Alyssa Smith; Thatcher McGill; Anabelle Smith; Ezekiel Smith; Serenity Smith; and Benaiah Smith; forty-six great grandchildren; twenty-one great great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Surrounded by generations of love, Barbara's children, Stephen, Plato, and Sheena, and their families blessed her with five generations, where she was affectionately known as "GiGi" and "Gram," titles she cherished deeply.

She is also survived by her special best friend, Gloria Saunders of Allegan, Michigan. who has been a loyal, trustworthy friend, sharing her deepest secrets, being a friend who listens and understands her feelings. Barbara's special relationship extended to Gloria's daughters, Tonya and Amy, affectionately calling them "my girls."

Barbara had a special relationship with her stylist, Rick Garrison at Moxie Salon and Spa in Portage, Michigan, who could make her smile when no one else could, making her feel and look like the queen she was.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Laura Belle Goins; her twin sisters, Velma and Velme Goins; her brothers, Henry Goins, Eugene Peake; her son-in-law, Edwin G. Johnson III; her granddaughter, Renata Smith; and her great grandson, Charles Johnson.

Barbara will be remembered for her strength, her style, her honesty, and the deep love she had for her family. Her legacy will live on through the many generations she leaves behind.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, June 27, 2026 for a funeral service at 1:30 pm in Wagner Family Funerals, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Barbara will be laid to rest in Calvin Center Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Death notices

Neil T. Carter, Neil T. Carter, 76, of South Bend, died June 19, 2026, at St.Joseph, Michigan. Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel.

Gregory Kaniuga

March 2, 1956 – June 21, 2026

Gregory D. Kaniuga, 70, a lifelong resident of Dowagiac, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday morning, June 21, 2026, following a brief illness.

Born on March 2, 1956, in Dowagiac, Greg was the son of Stephen and Ellen (Kraemer) Kaniuga. He graduated from Dowagiac Union High School with the Class of 1974 and remained proud of his hometown roots throughout his life. On June 17, 1991, he married the love of his life, Pamela A. Burger, beginning a partnership filled with devotion, laughter, and countless cherished memories.

Music was woven into the fabric of Greg's life. Picking up a guitar at age 15, he quickly discovered a passion that would stay with him forever. Over the years, Greg became a fixture in the Southwest Michigan music scene, earning a reputation as one of the area's most talented lead guitarists. To many, Greg was more than a musician – he was a true local legend. Whether performing on stage or simply sharing his love of music with friends, his talent left a lasting impression. Those who heard him play often spoke of his remarkable skill, and one admirer summed it up best by saying, "I bow to the guitar master."

Away from the stage, Greg found joy on the golf course. A scratch golfer with a deep love for the game, he rarely let weather stand in his way. If conditions were less than ideal, he would simply travel farther to find a course where he could play. Golf was more than a hobby – it was one of the many pursuits that brought him happiness and peace.

Greg also had a special place in his heart for animals, especially cats. He and Pam lovingly opened their home to many feline companions over the years, providing them with care, comfort, and affection. Being a devoted "cat dad" brought him immense joy.

Above all, Greg will be remembered for the kind of person he was. Gentle, easy-going, and dependable, he possessed a quiet strength and a generous spirit. Selflessness defined the way he lived his life. Whether a friend, neighbor, family member, or even a stranger needed help, Greg was there without hesitation. Greg never sought recognition for his acts of kindness; helping others simply came naturally to him.

Greg's legacy lives on not only through the music he created and the friendships he forged, but through the countless lives he touched with his compassion, loyalty, and unwavering willingness to lend a hand. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Surviving are his wife of 35 years, Pam Kaniuga; four brothers, John Kaniuga, Joseph (Molly) Kaniuga, Steven Kaniuga, and Robert Kaniuga; sister, Patricia Stockton; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and brother, James Kaniuga.

A service to celebrate Greg's life will be at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, July 7, at Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center St, Dowagiac. Pastor Richard Zeiger of Real Life Church in Three Oak, MI, will officiate. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery, Dowagiac.

Memorial contributions in Greg's name may be directed to Dowagiac District Library (https://www.dowagiacdl.org), or Hidden Acres Safe Haven (https://hiddenacressafehaven.org).

Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Greg's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Obituary policy

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $25, or free with obituary purchase. Extended obituaries are priced based on word count.

If there's an error because of a mistake made by the newspaper, the obituary will be reprinted at no charge.

For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

EDWARDSBURG

Council talks new village charter

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader correspondent

EDWARDSBURG — At its June 15 meeting, the Edwardsburg Village Council discussed the need for five residents to serve as a commission to create a new village charter.

Village President Dennis Peak reminded those present at the meeting that the village of Edwardsburg is looking to elect a Charter Commission of five electors. Commission members need to be registered voters who own village property and have at least two years of residence in the village. Anyone fitting those requirements is welcome to put their name on the ballot by filling out a nomination petition, which can be found at the village office. The commission will be elected during the regular election in November, with members being sworn in within ten days after the election so they may begin their work to frame a charter within 60 days.

The council noted that the village will be involved to provide guidance on the process once the commission is elected and that the results will be an amendment to the current charter. Those interested must file their petition with the Ontwa Township Clerk by 4pm on July 21.

The Fire Board is also in need of a new member to be appointed by the council to replace a resigning member.

The Cemetery Board announced they would no longer hold funerals on Sundays or holidays, due to the extra expense of operating on those days. They also reported their choice to use traditional engraving on columbarium name plates and grave stones to provide a longer lasting result.

The council approved an invoice totalling $1,391 to Reliable Generator and Electric LLC for maintenance and cleaning on three generators serving the well, iron filtration, and pump room. The maintenance is required every three years.

Trustee Sam Garwood brought up the topic of sealing roads in the village that were paved the previous year. The council discussed creating a standard procedure for one year after roads have been paved in order to make sure such tasks were not forgotten. The council also continued discussions addressing road shoulders with drop-offs that can create a driving and pedestrian hazard, as well as shorten the life of roads.

The Village office will be closed Friday, July 3 for Independence Day. The Edwardsburg Area History Museum is hosting America's 250th Birthday Bash from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 5. The event will feature live music, food trucks and activities for families.

Peak also highlighted the Edwardsburg Fall Festival and Art Fair, taking place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Edwardsburg Fire Station. The event will include 80 booths from local businesses, organizations and community groups. The village will have a booth with information on drains and stormwater for residents.

The next board regular meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, July 20.

Lake Effect HVAC Co. acquires Dowagiac Heating & Air Conditioning

By PMG STAFF

DOWAGIAC — Lake Effect HVAC Co. of Dowagiac has acquired Dowagiac Heating & Air Conditioning, bringing together two family-owned businesses with deep roots in the community and a shared commitment to customer service.

The purchase was finalized last month, and the two companies are working together to ensure a smooth transition for customers. Dowagiac Heating & Air Conditioning was founded in 1985 by husband-and-wife team Virgil and Candy Lovelace. For more than 40 years, the company built a reputation for dependable service and strong community relationships.

Following Virgil's passing in 2020, Candy Lovelace began considering the future of the business and ultimately approached Lake Effect HVAC Co. about acquiring the company.

"When I started looking at the future of the business, it was important to me that our customers would continue to receive the level of service they have come to expect," said Candy Lovelace.

"I wanted a local company with a good reputation, and I liked that Lake Effect is family owned. I also felt that, as a newer company, they would be in a good position to take on the large number of customers we have accumulated over more than 40 years of serving this area."

Lake Effect HVAC Co. is also owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Gary and Tiara Zimmerman, a similarity that resonated with both families during the transition process.

"The story of Dowagiac Heating & Air Conditioning is our story as well in a lot of ways," said Tiara Zimmerman. "These businesses are an extension of who you are. When your heart is in it, selling isn't an easy thing. We represent the same service and same hometown feel. I know they care about their customers, and so do we."

As part of the acquisition, Lake Effect HVAC Co. will relocate its operations to the former Dowagiac Heating & Air Conditioning facility at 55070 M-51 North in Dowagiac. The move is expected to be completed by the end of August.

The acquisition also includes the equipment and inventory of the facility's full-time sheet metal fabrication shop. Lake Effect officials say they are excited to expand their capabilities and put the metal shop back into full operation. "We will carry on the same classic service that customers have received for the last 41 years, but with a modern twist by implementing the best processes and technology that improve the end result for the customer," said Gary Zimmerman, owner of Lake Effect HVAC Co.

The company plans to begin accepting applications for sheet metal shop positions in the near future. Lake Effect HVAC Co. is continually hiring and says it makes every effort to hire locally whenever possible. Company officials believe the acquisition strengthens their ability to serve customers throughout Southwest Michigan while preserving the reputation, trust and hometown service that have defined both businesses for decades.

For customers of Dowagiac Heating & Air Conditioning, company officials say service will continue uninterrupted throughout the transition.

State forgives $200M in medical debt

By ELI NEWMAN
Bridge Michigan

Michigan took another step Monday in its effort to eliminate medical debt for thousands of residents.

The state announced it would wipe out $74 million in medical debt for 71,871 individuals. It's the second round of a program that began last year, when the state said it would help residents erase more than $144 million in medical debt.

The move comes amid a bipartisan push to offer patients more protections from collections by keeping them from going underwater on their hospital bills.

Officials say more than $200 million in medical debt has been forgiven for roughly 280,000 Michiganders since the program launched last year.

About 1 in 11 adults in Michigan – about 690,000 people – report having at least $250 in medical debt, according to a University of Michigan policy brief published in April.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who approved allocating $4.5 million toward medical debt forgiveness in the 2024 budget, said the latest development "ensures fewer Michigan families must choose between putting food on the table or paying their medical bills, at a time when so many already are struggling with rising costs on the essentials driven by tariffs, cuts to Medicaid, and the Iran War."

The state is working with Undue Medical Debt to administer the relief. Leadership at the nonprofit organization say they have separate programs with Kalamazoo, Oakland and Wayne counties where they've been able to erase an additional $80 million in medical debt.

Daniel Lempert, Undue's vice president of communication and marketing, says the nonprofit is able to relieve $100 of medical debt for every dollar received by the organization.

"Medical debt is a very unique kind of debt," Lempert told Bridge Michigan. "We basically approach hospitals, physicians groups, ambulance companies, anyone who owns medical debt that's unpaid, and we buy it in bulk for pennies or less on the dollar."

The 'ripple effects' of debt

The state's relief program may come too late to alleviate the central crises people face because of medical debt, according to Citizens Research Council of Michigan health policy research associate Karley Abramson.

Medical debt "has an impact on their credit scores, and some go into bankruptcy, and then they have to delay care, and that leads to even more expensive care down the road," Abramson told Bridge. "There's only so much that the forgiveness can do after the fact."

While medical debt relief offers a pathway to financial stability, Abramson says lawmakers should focus on front-end policies to prevent the "ripple effects" caused by obtaining medical debt in the first place.

Michigan lacks certain policies that exist in other states to regulate medical debt, she said, including mandated financial assistance and payment plans for certain patients, caps on medical debt interest rates, lawsuit protections and hospital reporting requirements.

Debt issues are only expected to compound, Abramson said, as more people lose access to health insurance due to rising costs and the expiration of premium tax credits, and Medicaid amid new guidelines approved by Congress last year.

"Everything with health care is always overlapping with other things that are going on," she said.

Undue's Lempert agrees on the need for broader policy reform amid the federal changes. He contends that medical debt forgiveness can offer emotional relief in addition to the removal of a major financial pressure. "We really see it as sort of a one-two punch – both the merits of the debt relief, and also commitment to upstream policy, work to ideally stymie the creation of new unpayable medical debts."

State lawmakers are proposing several solutions to the problem.

In March, the Michigan Senate approved a package of bills to offer more protections against medical bill collections and the development of payment plans.

The state Senate also passed other bills to establish a "Medical Debt Act" to limit debt collector and creditor communications, in addition to related legislation that would force the state to create a debt relief fund.

The Michigan House is considering its own legislation to effect the same issues. The medical debt bills were voted out of committee Wednesday, June 17, for consideration by the full House.

Nesbitt drops bid for Michigan governor

By CRAIG MAUGER
The Detroit News (TNS)

LANSING — Michigan Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt suspended his campaign to be the state's next governor Monday, less than three hours after President Donald Trump announced he was endorsing fellow Republican U.S. Rep. John James for the job.

Nesbitt of Porter Township had been portraying himself as a vocal supporter of Trump, with his team distributing materials that said the president was " right about everything."

"This campaign has always been about the people of Michigan and standing with President Trump to defeat the Democrats in November," Nesbitt wrote on X. "Today, I am suspending my campaign and proudly joining President Trump in endorsing John James as Michigan's next governor."

Nesbitt's exit leaves James of Shelby Township, former Attorney General Mike Cox of Livonia and businessman Perry Johnson of Bloomfield Hills as the three GOP candidates still actively seeking their party's nomination in the Aug. 4 primary.

Katy Kildee / The Detroit News / TNS

State Sen. Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt, R-Porter Township, works in the Senate chamber on Dec. 19, 2024, at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing.

Both Cox and Johnson vowed to fight on Monday despite Trump's endorsement of James, who has previously run for the U.S. Senate in Michigan twice unsuccessfully.

Nesbitt had consistently been in fourth place behind the other three contenders in public polling.

His name will still appear on the ballot in August.

Michigan's current governor, Democrat Gretchen Whitmer, can't seek reelection because of term limits.

The Senate minority leader launched his bid for the position in January 2025.

He previously served three terms in the state House, where he worked heavily on energy policy, and is now in his second and final term in the Senate. During Republican former Gov. Rick Snyder's administration, Nesbitt was briefly the state's lottery commissioner.

Nesbitt grew up on a six-generation family farm in southwest Michigan's Van Buren County and earned an economics degree from Hillsdale College, according to his official Michigan Senate biography.

In his statement Monday, Nesbitt called on Republicans to unite behind James.

"I'm asking every one of you who supported this campaign to stand with me behind John James, roll up our sleeves and deliver a Republican victory in November," Nesbitt wrote.

Former state House Speaker Tom Leonard, another Republican former candidate for governor, also endorsed James after ending his bid.

40 mayors endorse a pact for data center development

By JENNIFER MCDERMOTT and ANTON L. DELGADO
Associated Press

Forty mayors from around the world have signed onto a pact announced Tuesday to try to shape how urban data centers are built and operated.

It's their vision for how urban data center development can be done sustainably – and not at the expense of their cities' natural resources, energy prices or climate targets. C40 Cities, an alliance of nearly 100 cities seeking to impact climate change, launched it during London Climate Action Week.

Many new data centers are coming to rural areas for cheap land. Experts at C40 say metropolitan areas are under tremendous pressure too, with about 1,700 data centers located in their network of cities so far. Development of data centers is expected to grow by over 40 percent in 50 of those cities.

C40 got involved because the mayors of Phoenix and Melbourne, Australia, came together over worries about data centers using a lot of their cities' electricity and water, and competing with housing developers for available land.

"We found out that the challenges in every region around the world were very similar," said Cassie Sutherland, a managing director at C40. "Our approach was to say OK, how do we now use a global mayoral voice to come together with the conditions under which they will accept data centers."

Data centers are built in cities to be close to firms that want systems powered by artificial intelligence to respond instantaneously. Major companies locate data centers in cities to be near their business operations. And data centers tend to be built in clusters, forming ecosystems in metropolitan areas that might outweigh factors like land costs. It's just more recently that data centers have moved out into rural areas, said Andrew Batson, global head of data center research at JLL.

Political and local opposition has been growing because of fears about blackouts, rising electricity bills and the centers' voracious water needs. Some states are suspending tax breaks or considering moratoriums on data center construction.

About half of participating mayors are from the U.S. That includes Seattle and the California cities of Palo Alto and Riverside. In the Southwest, Phoenix and Albuquerque, New Mexico, joined. On the East Coast, Beverly, Massachusetts, signed, as did Lincoln, Nebraska; Chicago and Cleveland in the Midwest and Miami in the South.

European cities in Greece, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Norway joined, as did Montreal in Canada. The pact includes African cities in Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Kenya, as well as Asia-Pacific cities in India and Australia, and Lebanon in the Middle East.

Sutherland said their vision needs to be translated into action, with each city using it as a framework for their own regulations or guidelines. Mayors are limited in what they can do unilaterally, so they'll need buy-in from other government officials, utilities and the private sector.

The pact lists several standards for data center developments. Urban data centers should be built on abandoned or underutilized land in an area that minimizes negative impacts on noise, heat and air pollution. Developments should be fueled by renewable energy and battery storage, and data centers should reduce water use and emissions, as well as capture waste heat.

'They have given me my backbone back'

As Native American boarding schools project ends, survivors describe feeling honored and restored

By NANCY MARIE SPEARS
The Imprint

Hundreds of Indigenous people have testified. They've sobbed, cursed and laughed in spite of it all. Many told stories about their time in boarding schools that they've kept inside for decades, finally able to begin recovering from childhood trauma.

An oral history project led by the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition is wrapping up in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Friday. To date, the nonprofit's historians have collected video testimony from more than 360 Indigenous survivors in 19 states – stories set to be preserved in the Library of Congress for years to come.

Iona Mad Plume, who is Blackfeet and grew up on her tribe's reservation in Montana, said she "can't emphasize enough" how healing her experience was. She testified in front of a video camera last month in Billings about her time in the Pierre Indian School in South Dakota, where she was sent at age 14.

Mad Plume, now 74, said since her interview she's been more grounded and has been able to let go of some of the haunting memories: a dusty blue Greyhound bus driving her away from her parents' red pickup truck. School staff beating her with a wooden dowel as she cowered on a bunk bed in her dorm room. Eating corn meal or cereal littered with weevil bugs.

"I got a lot out of that, pretty much a lot of closure," she said. "It was after almost a lifetime of carrying around questions and different things in my mind – so I don't have to carry that around anymore."

Another boarding school survivor who contributed to the project in Michigan in 2024 recounted a similar experience. Gene Bozicic, of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, attended the Catholic-run Holy Childhood School of Jesus in Harbor Springs, Michigan, beginning at age 11.

"As we further went along, I started to feel more confident in what I could do and what I have accomplished, almost like more pride to be Native," Bozicic, now 81, said about her video interview. "I hate to see it coming to an end, because they have given me my backbone back."

Survivors endured systemic abuse

The oral history project, which began in March 2024, is a collaboration between the Minnesota-based National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The intent is to document and share with the public the systemic abuse endured by boarding school survivors under the government's attempts at forced assimilation – policies that began in the 1800s and lasted for over a century.

Two years earlier, former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland – a Laguna Pueblo member and a descendant of boarding school survivors – led the historic Road to Healing listening tour with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, a citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community.

Haaland's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative also included in-depth reports on the schools' multigenerational impacts. Nearly 1,000 Native children were buried at 65 different school sites, the federal government reported. Atrocities occurring within school walls ranged from physical and sexual abuse to failed attempts at cultural genocide, the report found.

In the more than two years since the boarding school coalition's oral history work began, the process of collecting these in-person testimonies in 19 states evolved, said Lacey Kinnart, the coalition's oral history program co-director.

Initially, the "quiet room" where survivors decompress with a fellow elder after their interview was optional. But staff soon changed that policy so entering the room was automatic, and added a second "quiet room." They also began matching survivors with a licensed clinical therapist who specializes in boarding school trauma and a licensed social worker.

"Our elders don't want to be a burden," said Kinnart, a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. "But they really do need that extra support."

Kinnart said staff also noticed survivors feeling nervous around the Indigenous photographer. That shyness showed in the photos. So they built in an extra half-hour into the schedule so each survivor could get to know the person who took their portraits.

Stories affect generations

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the Department of the Interior are still assessing how to present the video interviews to the world. Survivors, however, will retain full ownership of their interviews and they alone decide whether their stories are made public.

The videos will be housed in a permanent oral history collection at the Library of Congress, and the project's end date is June 2027.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition will continue other oral history projects independently. Staff said their next project will likely be more costly – potentially as much as $13 million – compared to the $6.2 million they received from Interior and the Mellon Foundation for the initial oral history project. And while the upcoming venture would take longer, it would be even more inclusive.

"We're just scratching the surface with these stories," said the coalition's Oral History Program Co-director Charlee Brissette, a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie of Chippewa Indians. "We want to get a more robust picture of the boarding school experience because it does have that intergenerational effect."

Indigenous people excluded from this first iteration of the oral history project may get another opportunity in the coming years. It's an effort welcomed by survivors and descendants alike.

"I'd be interested in doing that, because the whole story needs to be taught," said Desiray Emerton, 56, a Seminole woman and a descendant of two generations of boarding school survivors.

Her relatives attended Goodland Academy and Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma. She said she's seen the generational impacts: Because of her boarding school experiences, Emerton's mother struggled to be affectionate toward her as a child. And her grandmother died long before the oral history project's existence.

"I know time's running out for those who did go through that personally," Emerton said, "but I always tell my kids I'm walking on the prayers of our ancestors, and I'm running out of time."

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OPINION

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The military traded its flu vaccine mandate for 'medical freedom' – an outbreak quickly followed

By KATRINE L. WALLACE
University of Illinois Chicago
(The Conversation)

THE CONVERSATION

Amid a worsening flu outbreak at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy are once again requiring new recruits to get vaccinated against the influenza virus, according to ABC News. The move comes two months after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth rescinded the U.S. military's mandate that they do so.

As of June 23, 2026, at least 222 recruits on the base have fallen ill and four have reportedly been hospitalized.

In his April 21 announcement making the flu vaccine optional, Hegseth cited medical autonomy and religious freedom, describing the vaccination requirement as "overly broad and not rational," telling troops that "your body, your faith and your convictions are not negotiable."

The flu shot requirement that Hegseth ended had been in place since 1945, with one brief pause in 1949. It was part of a tradition of military vaccine mandates nearly as old as the United States itself.

As an epidemiologist who studies vaccine-preventable diseases, I found the end of the flu mandate striking less for its immediate impact than for what it signals. For most of American history, military commanders took for granted that infectious disease could cost them a war, which is why vaccination was considered a matter of military readiness rather than personal choice.

The Lackland outbreak is evidence that the underlying epidemiology has not changed – only the political climate surrounding public health.

A tradition that started with George Washington

The first American military vaccine mandate predates the Constitution. In the winter of 1777, Gen. George Washington ordered the mass inoculation of the Continental Army against smallpox.

His decision wasn't ideological – it was strategic. The year before, a smallpox outbreak had torn through American troops outside Quebec, contributing to the collapse of the northern campaign. John Adams famously wrote to his wife, Abigail, that smallpox was killing 10 soldiers for every one felled in battle.

Inoculation in 1777 was itself risky. The procedure, called variolation, involved deliberately infecting a soldier with a small amount of smallpox virus to build immunity. Washington gambled that losing some to inoculation was better than losing a war to the virus. Historians have credited the decision with saving the Continental Army.

That pattern held for centuries: When an infectious disease threatened to take more soldiers off the line than enemy fire did, the military required protection.

U.S. troops received smallpox vaccinations from the War of 1812 through World War II. During World War I, the Army added typhoid vaccination. During World War II, it expanded vaccine requirements to also include tetanus, cholera, diphtheria, plague, yellow fever and, in 1945, influenza.

1945: New war, new vaccine

The flu vaccine mandate grew out of military experiences during the influenza pandemic of 1918. That spring, a novel influenza strain spread through crowded Army training camps and traveled to Europe with American troops. About 45,000 American soldiers died of influenza during World War I – nearly as many as the roughly 53,000 killed in combat.

The 1918 pandemic made clear that a respiratory virus could cripple an army. In 1941, as the country prepared to enter another world war, the U.S. Army organized an influenza commission that partnered with the University of Michigan to develop the first influenza vaccine. Clinical trials in military recruits showed that the vaccine reduced the incidence of influenza illness by 85 percent, and in 1945 the military mandated the vaccine. Roughly 7 million service members were vaccinated that year.

The mandate was briefly paused in 1949 after scientists realized the vaccine needed regular updates due to the virus changing. Once formulations could be adjusted seasonally, the mandate returned in the early 1950s and has stayed in place continuously – until Hegseth's change of policy.

COVID-19 changed vaccine politics

For decades, vaccine mandates were an unremarkable fact of military life, but COVID-19 changed that.

In August 2021, all service members were ordered to be vaccinated against COVID-19. More than 98 percent of active duty troops complied, but the mandate became a flash point. More than 8,000 service members were involuntarily discharged for refusing the shot.

In 2023, Congress passed a law requiring the Pentagon to rescind the military COVID-19 vaccine mandate. This reversal reframed the politics of military vaccine requirements. In January 2025, President Donald Trump ordered the reinstatement, with back pay, of troops discharged over COVID-19 vaccine refusal.

In announcing the end of the flu mandate, Hegseth relied heavily on "medical freedom" language that emerged from the COVID-19 vaccine debate, rather than on any new evidence about influenza or the effectiveness of the flu vaccine.

The medical freedom movement opposes government involvement in what its supporters see as personal health decisions – including public health recommendations such as vaccine mandates, masking and social distancing.

Does the vaccination rationale still hold?

Critics of the military flu vaccine mandate argued that flu is a milder threat than it was in 1918, that service members are healthier than the general population, and that personal choice should outweigh public health logic for a seasonal virus.

The epidemiology – and now the outbreak at Lackland – tell a different story.

Although flu seasons can vary in disease severity, the virus mutates so unpredictably that pandemic flu seasons – like those in 1918, 1957, 1968 and 2009 – are a recurring possibility. Flu still hospitalizes and kills tens of thousands of Americans annually. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the influenza vaccine prevented roughly 180,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 deaths during the 2024-2025 season.

The military operates in precisely the conditions that favor the spread of respiratory viruses: recruit training centers, barracks, ships and submarines where people live in close quarters. When vaccination rates among Lackland recruits dropped from nearly 100 percent to 40 percent after the mandate was lifted, according to ABC News, the virus did exactly what respiratory viruses do in close quarters – it quickly spread.

The logic that drove Washington in 1777 and the Army surgeon general in 1945 to require vaccination hasn't really changed. A sick soldier can't deploy, can't train and can spread illness through an entire unit. At Lackland, more than 220 recruits learned that firsthand.

This an updated version of an article originally published on April 28, 2026.

Katrine L. Wallace s an assistant professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at University of Illinois Chicago.

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I have spent the past 6 months reading hundreds of poems by young people – I was surprised to find hope, not despair

By SEAN MURPHY
Shenandoah University
(The Conversation)

THE CONVERSATION

If you've read any commentary about younger people, none of the following statistics will surprise you.

Approximately 19 percent of Americans who are 12 to 19 years old are depressed – higher than any adult age group. Only about 58.5 percent of teens who are 12 to 17, meanwhile, say they consistently receive the emotional and social support they need. They often have little faith in institutions – be it the government or schools, or one another. And the average American child age 8 to 18 spends 7.5 hours a day watching or using screens.

On the one hand, these statistics are understandable: Young people are facing a future shaped by climate anxiety, political extremism, economic instability and chronic loneliness.

But those numbers may only be telling part of the story.

I have spent the past six months reading hundreds of poems submitted by young writers age 10 to 21. In June 2026, we will publish an anthology of writing from 177 of these young people in the "1455 Young Poets Anthology."

More than 300 young people submitted their poems to a nonprofit I run, called 1455 Storytelling Arts. The poets mostly come from the U.S., but nine other countries are represented.

I continually found myself surprised, encouraged and inspired while reading their poetry. In a world that sometimes seems to reward the noisiest and the most aggressive, the wealthiest and the most selfish, these young poets understand something at once simple and profound that I think many adults have forgotten: Hope is not optimism. It's endurance.

'The only way through is through'

For the young writers whose work crossed my desk, hoping for a better future seems to be both a personal and collective act of accountability. It's a refusal to accept a status quo in politics and other ways of life that might not work for some people.

Again and again, young people submitted poems that wrestled with loneliness, fractured families, violence, identity, anxiety, grief and uncertainty.

Layla Dwelle, age 15, confronts this tense atmosphere of information overload and anxiety, writing, "I'm tired of the cycle / I'm tired of evil / I'm tired of what is done / I'm tired of what isn't."

Yet many also revealed an unwillingness to surrender entirely to despair. Alicia Chow, age 14, writes, "I realize the only way through is through / So I keep moving as defiance of loss."

These poems acknowledge pain, but identify tenderness in the darker corners of life. They describe a world that has a soundtrack set on two extremes: chaos and silence. They grapple with real fear and insist that bearing witness to the world gives purpose and meaning to people's lives.

These writers, in short, are not giving up – they are looking to create a future that revises the dysfunctional present, which they see as a work in progress.

The titles of some poems speak volumes about the worlds and feelings these poems explore: "Self-Portrait as a Firefly," "The Cost of Rain," "The Ones Who Run," "Prayer for a New Season," "The Grass That Grows in the Cracks" and "Scars on Soul."

Where reality meets urgency

What struck me most while editing this anthology was not the poets' honesty or vulnerability, though both of those qualities were present.

Instead, it was their maturity that really stood out. There's a focused seriousness present in their writing that combines political reality with a sense of urgency.

Here's Emily Bennett, age 18, from her poem, "For the Love of the Sunk Cost Fallacy":

Because, nothing true aches forever. And sometimes the bravest thing you can do is simply open your hands.

Many of these young writers are trying to answer questions that adults themselves struggle with or avoid, including how to remain human in a culture that monetizes distraction.

This is an issue the American writer Jenny Odell compellingly addresses in her 2019 book, "How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy." Her thesis, simple yet radical, is that attention is people's most vital resource, and all people are being bombarded, 24/7, with algorithmic strategies looking to distract and divide them. She astutely describes "the mindless traffic of information," which, not so coincidentally, is something poetry has always stood in quiet defiance of.

The poems raise other questions. How do people care for one another without becoming uncomfortably numb to others' pain and suffering? How do people imagine and create a future while they are constantly reminded of growing inequality within many countries, and with the world's wealthiest people quickly growing richer?

The fact that so many young people are still turning to poetry feels, to me, significant, if not momentous.

Poetry is typically not a commercially rewarded art form. It obliges readers to slow down, sit with ambiguity and experience language in ways that plumb interior life.

If today's algorithms reward speed, branding and certainty, poetry rewards reflection. This is the thesis of professor and Atlantic editor Walt Hunter's illuminating – and quite encouraging – recent article, "Stop Meeting Students Where They Are," which we recently discussed in detail on my podcast, "Some Things Considered."

Young Americans may not have given up after all

Younger people are not oblivious about the world's problems. The young poets I've been reading see empathy not as weakness, but as a bold imperative to help make the world a kinder, more just place.

I can hardly think of a better example than 16-year-old poet Dave Thompson's provocatively titled "What if Jesus Was a Little Brown Boy in the USA":

But you are here. A little God walking to school, still foolish enough still holy enough to believe love might mean what it says.

As a podcaster and professor of storytelling, I can't count how many times I've heard people my age or older lament that today's generation doesn't read or doesn't care. This issue comes up at almost every panel discussion I've recently participated in.

I think these kinds of assertions about young people are both simplistic and unhelpful. In some ways, while mental health is a real concern for young people, they are doing better than their predecessors in other ways. Youth arrest rates have been declining since the 1990s in the U.S., for example, and American high school students are more likely than ever to graduate.

I think we should pay attention to some of the messages that these young poets are sending. We might even seek to emulate them.

Sean Murphy is director of Center for Story at Shenandoah University.

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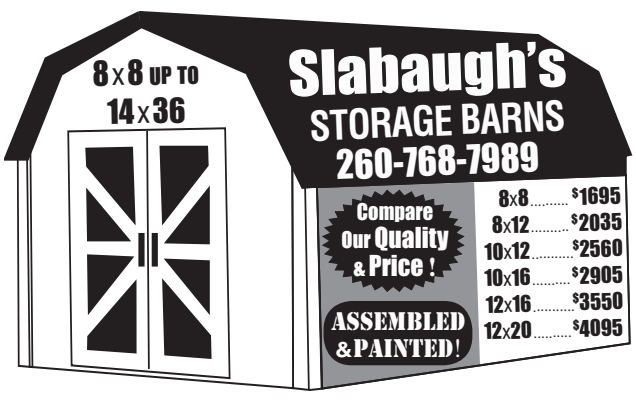

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Records: Rural Michigan is 'overlooked'

By PAULA GARDNER
Bridge Michigan

Tom Wdowik is relieved these days by waves of vacationers visiting cabins, restaurants and hotels along Lake Huron, despite worries that high gas and food prices this year could stall tourism.

The region relies heavily on travel, and Wdowik wonders if he'd have less anxiety if the state spent more to diversify the economy on the sunrise side of Michigan.

"We're often the overlooked corner of the state," said Wdowik, who owns Sandcastle Beach Resort in Oscoda.

Indeed, Michigan has spent $6 billion since 2022 on business support and attraction through its Michigan Economic Development Corp. – and a Bridge Michigan analysis found a wide disparity in spending.

In the northeast Lower Peninsula from Grayling and Oscoda to Cheboyan and Alpena, the state spent $71 per resident during that time on programs from business subsidy grants and small business support to increasing entrepreneurship and capital access.

The west Michigan region anchored by Grand Rapids received $854 per resident.

The median across all 10 Michigan regions is $525.

All told, 49 of 83 Michigan counties – including many that are losing population and posting lower incomes in the struggling state – receive less business development funding than their share of the population.

"Some people take the viewpoint that in some of these distressed areas, there's nothing you can do to help them," said Tim Bartik, an economist and economic development subsidy expert at the Upjohn Center for Employment Research in Kalamazoo.

"I don't think that's inevitable."

Economic development needs to ensure that "residents of Michigan are better off," Bartik said.

The MEDC tracks spending by region, spokesperson Danielle Emerson told Bridge. However, it has no specific budget allocated by community, and its programs largely respond to local requests.

"MEDC's role is to be a partner, not a driver, of the market," she said.

Bridge's findings underscore a longstanding debate in economic development: Should government investments reflect geographical fairness or go where they can do the most good?

For years, many in Michigan have advocated concentrating spending in its biggest cities, but growing research from the Brookings Institution and others highlights the need for more investment in struggling communities.

Whatever the case, the geographic disparity comes amid debate about the effectiveness of Michigan's business growth policies. Under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, data shows business incentives led to lower-than-promised job creation and high numbers of low-paying jobs.

Lawmakers have noticed: Her signature large-scale subsidy fund, SOAR, was defunded last fall. The MEDC's business subsidy budget also was cut, going from $100 million to $59 million, amid some lawmaker calls to disband the public-private partnership. Further, the legislature initiated no new subsidies in 2025.

Finding the disparity

Bridge analyzed MEDC spending awards since 2022 made to communities in the MEDC's 10-regions of the state.

The money came from the key state-funded programs to increase jobs, small business support, community development as reported on the MEDC's online project map as well as $2.4 billion in subsidies and site preparation funding for Whitmer's signature economic development plan, the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve.

Records show regional disparities affected most of the state's land area:

1. The northeast Lower Peninsula received $14 million since 2022, about 0.24 percent of the funds, despite having 2 percent of the state's residents.

2. The Traverse City region, which has 3 percent of the population, received less than 1 percent of funding.

3. The six-county region around Ann Arbor, home to 10 percent of the population, received 4 percent of money, $219 per person.

4. The Flint area, home to 8 percent of residents, received 6 percent of funds – a share inflated by a single, $261 million project that doubled the region's total funding.

5. Metro Detroit, which has 39 percent of the state population, received 41 percent of the spending.

6. Grand Rapids' 13-county region, with 17 percent of the population, received nearly 25 percent of awards.

The state says it does not treat its regions the same because it coordinates investment with public and private partners, spokesperson Emerson told Bridge.

"Every community and region is at a different stage of growth and barriers to overcome," Emerson said.

And while it seeks "regional impact" across the state, it does not use geography to set its budgets for such as the Michigan Business Development Program and Michigan Community Revitalization Program.

"We work closely with local partners to grow our pipeline of project applications from the region," Emerson said. "And our ability to identify and support good deals for the state depends on that pipeline."

Solutions for 'serious trouble'

The discussion on how Michigan spends economic development money comes as policymakers urge a reckoning of the state's declining prosperity.

The state is ranked 49th in population growth; 40th in per capita incomes – a drop from 18th just 25 years earlier; 50th for GDP growth.

The situation was bleak enough that a theme of the recent Mackinac Policy Conference was " The House is on Fire, "

"We're in serious trouble," said co-chair Bob Riney, CEO of Henry Ford Health System.

Michigan needs to maximize its business growth funding, Bartik said.

It makes sense to target areas with lower rates of employed people ages 25-54, Bartik added, "which in Michigan would be many of the rural areas, and would also include places like Flint."

Lou Glazer, president of Michigan Future Inc., questions whether any MEDC business growth spending can lift the state.

"There's very little evidence that those (MEDC-funded) projects add up to improving people's economic outcomes," Glazer said. "The conversation needs to be what should we be spending money on that really drives increases."

Michigan will elect a new governor in November who could retool Michigan's economic development plan.

State economic advocates call for some specific steps to pair the spending with increased prosperity.

Michigan needs "a talent-based economic strategy, not an enterprise-based economic strategy," Glazer said.

Bartik and Glazer also advocate for that targeting specific business development funding to less populous regions, instead of the MEDC's existing strategy.

"There's no silver bullet" for the rural areas of the state while all of Michigan grapples with concerns about prosperity, Eric Lupher, president of the nonpartisan Citizens Research Council.

But improvement will come from "recognizing that having those vibrant cities of all sizes" are a foundation for the state's future.

Lupher said he's looking for an overall strategy that emphasizes both innovation and helping existing businesses thrive.

Lawmakers need to ask if Michigan has an active plan for that, Lupher said, or whether the low spending across much of the state signals "economic fishing by putting the hook out and seeing who bites."

The Northeast still hopes for more

In Oscoda, Wdowik is excited to see some new businesses open in the community of about 8,000, like a boutique and an indoor golf facility.

Wdowik, a leader of the Oscoda Area Convention and Visitor Bureau. calls the disparity in state business funding "not good," even as he understands larger areas can attract larger businesses.

"But by the same token, you can't let the rural areas just stand alone," he said.

The MEDC's Region 3 covers 11 counties, roughly along I-75 to West Branch up to the Mackinac Bridge and east to the Lake Huron shore. Communities like Oscoda, Alpena, Cheboygan, Gaylord and Grayling are among the largest, spread across hundreds of miles.

The area has the state's lowest median wage, $20.20, more than $2 per hour less than the average.

Statistically, nine of the counties have the oldest residents in the state – and the region is tied with the Thumb in having the lowest percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees.

Getting fewer resources to grow and support businesses means everyone has to struggle more, said Jennifer Riggs, executive director of county economic development group Develop Iosco.

"How do you spread that across 11 counties and get the same outcome?" Riggs asked. "You can't. It's impossible to make the same impact."

To be sure, MEDC funding is generating some wins. In Grayling, for example, Saab committed to a munitions factory, with $5.6 million in MEDC support. The new, five-story Sawmill Lofts apartment building added retail space downtown, too. It received $1.3 million from the state.

In Oscoda, the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport offers growth potential; it's already the largest employer in the northeast with 3,000 workers. The facility received a $500,000 SOAR grant in 2024 to repair former Air Force taxiways and add capacity.

But the expanse of the area and the seasonal business nature of many businesses makes the work that much harder, Riggs emphasized.

And it means even the smallest changes matter.

"Every time you add a new employer, you have new jobs, you're giving choice to your residents on where they work," Riggs said.

Landing just two dozen new jobs would "trickle down" across the community as workers buy gas and groceries, and become a customer base for year-round businesses, she said.

That many jobs may make one or two new daycares possible. New houses could come next. And they'd keep people shopping in the small businesses that remain rooted in Michigan's smallest cities.

Michigan as a state needs to pursue success and shape a solid economic development plan, Riggs said.

While doing that, she added, "we need to put a focus on making sure that our Huron Coast is getting the same resources."

Maryland senator backs El-Sayed in break from Democratic leadership

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Associated Press

Jose Luis Magana / AP file

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., speaks during the Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies hearing on Capitol Hill on May 12 in Washington.

WASHINGTON — Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen is backing progressive Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan's Democratic Senate primary, breaking with party leadership and intensifying a battle over the party's direction in one of the most important Senate races of 2026.

Van Hollen's endorsement, shared first with The Associated Press on the day early voting begins in Michigan, makes him the first senator to back El-Sayed since Sen. Bernie Sanders endorsed him shortly after he launched his campaign last year. It also comes on the heels of big wins for progressive challengers in New York U.S. House races on Tuesday.

The Aug. 4 race in Michigan has increasingly split Democrats along ideological lines, with Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer backing U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens and state Sen. Mallory McMorrow drawing support from other prominent senators.

Democrats will need to hold the Michigan seat if they want a shot at winning the majority this year. It opened by Democratic Sen. Gary Peters' retirement and former Rep. Mike Rogers has an uncontested path to the Republican nomination.

In an interview with the AP, Van Hollen said he believed El-Sayed was the "strongest" candidate who can win in November, and "the candidate who's willing to take on the status quo."

"When I say the status quo, I mean not just the lawless Trump administration, but take on the Democratic establishment that has not fought hard enough for working people," said Van Hollen.

Rod Lamkey / AP

This combination of photos shows Rep. Haley Stevens, D-Mich., left, Michigan state Sen. Mallory McMorrow, center, and Abdul El-Sayed.

Senate Democrats have split across the field

Schumer last week publicly backed Stevens, a four-term congresswoman from suburban Detroit who is seen as the more moderate candidate in the race. She has also been endorsed by other senators from battleground states, including Arizona Sen. Ruben Gallego and Nevada Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, and former Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Stevens has also benefited from heavy outside spending, including nearly $8 million this month from United Democracy Project, a super PAC affiliated with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

McMorrow, a state senator, has tried to carve out her own lane between Stevens and El-Sayed as an anti-establishment candidate with a reform-focused agenda. She has won endorsements from other senators, including Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, while also drawing millions in outside support.

El-Sayed, the former Wayne County health director, has run furthest to the left on issues including Medicare for All and halting all U.S. weapons transfers to Israel, making him a favorite of the party's progressive wing. He has campaigned with popular-yet-controversial streamer Hasan Piker, who has millions of followers online but has said things such as that "America deserved 9/11."

Earlier this month, the United Auto Workers endorsed him, saying its members "want a fighter in Washington, D.C. who isn't afraid to push forward a strong working-class agenda with moral clarity."

Van Hollen said he believes El-Sayed is best positioned to compete in a battleground state because he is running on affordability and against what he described as a political system too influenced by wealthy donors and special interests.

"This is not about left versus right. This is about very concentrated economic and political power at the top, and everybody else," Van Hollen said. "And he's fighting for everybody else."

El-Sayed praised Van Hollen after receiving the endorsement, calling it the "culmination of an ongoing conversation" and describing the senator as a "mentor."

With progressives coming off a string of wins in New York, El-Sayed said the results reflected the same frustrations he has heard from voters across Michigan.

"It's not surprising to me that candidates who buck that system win," El-Sayed said. "I really hope that folks in D.C., like Chuck Schumer, decide to pay attention, finally."

Tensions with Schumer as Democrats debate their future

Asked whether backing El-Sayed amounted to a broader rebuke of Democratic leadership, Van Hollen said the endorsement was "not about personalities" but about backing a candidate who would take on both President Donald Trump and "the establishment Democratic Party" that he said is "too cozy with big money special interests."

Van Hollen has not called on Schumer to step aside. Asked if he would be interested in leading Democrats in the Senate, Van Hollen told the AP that he has "not thought about doing that."

But his endorsement lands at a moment of growing friction between Democratic leadership and the party's left flank over how aggressively to confront Trump and what kind of candidates can win in battleground states.

Those tensions were exacerbated earlier this month in Maine, where Schumer had backed Gov. Janet Mills in the Democratic Senate primary before she suspended her campaign and progressive Graham Platner won the nomination.

Van Hollen has also been among the Senate Democrats urging the party to rethink its approach after the 2024 election. He framed his endorsement of El-Sayed at odds with leadership as a "difference of opinion with respect to which candidates will best connect with voters."

"I think it's pretty clear that Abdul is the candidate who can build a grassroots movement and others are not," said Van Hollen.

AP-NORC AND GALLUP POLLS

How U.S. is feeling about 250th

By LINLEY SANDERS
Associated Press

Manuel Balce Ceneta / AP

A Ferris wheel is seen on the National Mall for the 250 Anniversary celebration on June 23 in Washington.

WASHINGTON — Duane Mitchell has big plans for America's 250th anniversary.

Mitchell, a 78-year-old veteran in Montana, plans to take a red, white and blue 1954 Chevrolet pickup that he restored and drive it in local parades for the Fourth of July. In honor of the country's milestone anniversary, he bought a decorative eagle to mount on the back of the truck, accompanied by American flags.

"I'll be driving my pickup," he said, referring to his role in the parades. "Usually we freeze a whole bunch of candy, and I have a couple of kids from down the block who get in the back and throw candy out. Everybody loves it."

Mitchell isn't the only one looking forward to this year's festivities. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults feel "proud" about the country's 250th anniversary, according to a new survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Roughly 3 in 10 say "excited" describes their emotions. The milestone will be marked with events across the country, and President Donald Trump has planned several for the nation's capital, including a fair on Washington's National Mall.

But as the celebrations begin, many Americans also feel indifferent or conflicted about celebrating the country. Other Gallup polling shows that most Americans now feel the signers of the Declaration of Independence would be disappointed with how the U.S. has turned out, a substantial increase from 25 years ago.

Most Republicans and older adults feel proud

Most Republicans say that "proud" or "excited" describes how they are feeling about the United States' 250th anniversary. About 7 in 10 Republicans say pride describes their emotions, compared with about 3 in 10 independents and roughly 2 in 10 Democrats.

Older Americans – those ages 60 and older – are also mostly feeling proud, with about 6 in 10 saying this describes how they feel about the nation's anniversary.

Mitchell, the Montana veteran, wants the country to be "celebrating it to the maximum." As a Vietnam War veteran who was drafted into the war, he wants Americans to remember the men and women who have given their lives to protect the freedoms they have today.

"It was a sacrifice," Mitchell said, referring to his service. "The most important thing about the celebration is understanding that freedom is not free, and it never will be free, so you need to celebrate that."

About half of Republicans, 54 percent, say they feel excited about the country's anniversary.

As the country marks 250 years of independence, most Americans believe the country has succeeded in achieving its founding ideals, according to new Gallup polling. About 7 in 10 U.S. adults say that America has succeeded "a great deal" or "a fair amount" in achieving the ideals for which the country was founded. That view is shared by a majority of Democrats, independents and Republicans – though Republicans are especially likely to say the country has succeeded.

Democrats and young people feel conflicted or indifferent

More Democrats and young people say "conflicted" or "indifferent" describes their feelings about America 250.

About 4 in 10 Democrats and roughly 3 in 10 adults under 30 say "conflicted" describes their feelings "extremely" or "very" well. About 3 in 10 in each case feel "indifferent."

Laura Davis, a 44-year-old in Chicago who identifies as a progressive liberal, has struggled with what she describes as the "American declarations of grandiosity" this year, including Trump's White House ballroom construction and the repainting of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. She believes that money could be better spent on Americans in need, as well as international aid, and she worries the country's reputation is being damaged by the Trump administration's actions.

"It doesn't mean we can't celebrate the things that do make America a unique and in some ways exceptional place to be," she said. "But I think it's more nuanced than that, and I hope that doesn't get lost in the celebration."

About 8 in 10 Americans say the signers of the Declaration of Independence would be disappointed with how the country has turned out, according to a new Gallup poll. Only about 2 in 10 say the signers would be pleased. That's down significantly from 1999 – the first time the question was asked – when 55 percent believed they would be disappointed and 44 percent said they would be pleased.

Sydney Crispin, a 39-year-old Democrat in Maine, believes the country's "incredible" foundation is worth celebrating. Still, she is conflicted by what she sees as a decline in people's ability to have respectful discourse, something she believes is at the heart of America's identity. She hopes communities find ways to celebrate the remarkable parts of America this Fourth of July while still reflecting on its areas for improvement.

Celebrating the 250th: Spending time with friends or family tops on list

Just under half, 44 percent, of U.S. adults plan to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary by spending time with friends or family, according to a recent Gallup-With Honor poll. About 3 in 10 U.S. adults say they plan to watch coverage of America 250 events on television or social media.

More than half of adults ages 65 and older plan to celebrate with friends or family, while nearly half plan to watch coverage of the event on television or social media. Adults under 30 are more likely to say they are not planning to celebrate at all.

The Gallup-With Honor poll found about 2 in 10 U.S. adults plan to participate in a neighborhood or community event, while approximately 1 in 10 say they will be attending an official America 250 event.

Lyle Nelson, a 67-year-old in Idaho, said he plans to maintain his tradition of watching the annual Macy's firework show at home.

Nelson – who agrees with a lot of what Trump has done in office – remarked that even though Trump was disappointed that he did not get reelected in 2020, he might be pleased that he's the one in the White House during this historic event.

"I wonder if he's thankful that he gets to be president during the 250th anniversary," Nelson said. "I think he'll be excited for that."

The AP-NORC poll of 2,596 adults was conducted April 16-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for adults overall is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points. The Gallup-With Honor poll of 3,199 adults was conducted May 12-22 using a sample drawn from Gallup's probability-based panel. The margin of sampling error for adults overall is plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. The separate Gallup poll of 1,001 adults was conducted May 1-17 using a sample drawn from Gallup's probability-based panel. The margin of sampling error for adults overall is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

Supreme Court sides with Michigan county in a tax foreclosure case

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected an effort to change tax foreclosure sales to let homeowners to keep more money when their property is sold to recoup unpaid taxes.

The high court ruled against a sweeping argument from a Michigan family whose house was sold for less than half its open-market value to cover an unpaid tax bill of just over $2,000. They argued the foreclosure violated their rights because the house would have fetched a higher price of nearly $200,000 if sold through typical real-estate channels.

The Supreme Court unanimously found that people aren't entitled to recoup a "hypothetical fair market value" of homes sold at auction to cover unpaid taxes. Auctions are designed to be a relatively quick way to collect unpaid taxes, and requiring local governments to get the higher fair-market value might make them unworkable, Justice Samuel Alito wrote.

"The traditional rule, under which the taxpayer receives only the difference between the auction sale price and unpaid taxes, is 'just,'" he wrote.

The sale, though, must be conducted fairly, he wrote. The court sent the Pung family's case back to lower courts to reassess the process used by Isabella County. Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Neil Gorsuch, wrote separately to raise doubts about the constitutionality of the foreclosure process.

"The case isn't over," said Larry Salzman, vice president for litigation at the Pacific Legal Foundation, which represented the family. "The Pungs won the right to continue their fight in the lower courts."

The county maintained that auction sale prices are always lower than open real estate transactions, in part because they typically require full cash payment rather than a mortgage.

Officials make "herculean efforts to help homeowners avoid foreclosure," said attorney Matthew Nelson, who represented the county. "But at the end of the day, foreclosure is a tool that needs to remain in their toolboxes."

He said the county's actions would withstand further scrutiny. "We are confident the process Isabella County followed in this case exceeded what the law required."

The case comes about three years after another major foreclosure case where the justices ruled against local governments. The court found counties can't keep tax sale proceeds beyond what the owner owes in unpaid taxes.

That case centered on a 94-year-old Minnesota woman whose county government kept about $40,000 in proceeds from the sale of her condominium after she failed to pay about $2,300 in taxes.

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Suspect identified in fatal hit and run

By PMG STAFF

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP — The Cass County Sheriff's Office has identified the suspect that was arrested in connection with the fatal hit and run that killed Timothy Johnson last month.

22-year-old Enrique Bejarano-Martinez, of Dowagiac, has been charged with one count of failure to stop/accident/fault/death, one count of tampering with evidence and one count of reckless driving causing death.

BEJARANO-MARTINEZ

Johnson, 24, was found dead on May 24 from what appeared to be a fatal hit and run on M-152 and Pleasant Street in Silver Creek Township.

Leader Publications will be updated when more information becomes available.

Dowagiac man injured in Calvin Township crash

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CALVIN TOWNSHIP — A Dowagiac man was injured Monday in a two-vehicle crash in Calvin Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

At approximately 4:09 a.m., deputies responded to a two-vehicle, personal injury accident. The accident occurred just south of the intersection of Calvin Center Road and Mount Zion Street in Calvin Township. The investigation shows that Chad Hutchings, a 53-year-old resident of Dowagiac, was southbound on Calvin Center road when his vehicle struck a tree that had fallen across the roadway.

After Hutchings struck the tree with his vehicle, a semi-truck being driven by 60-year-old Jonathan Hale, of Colorado, struck the same tree coming Northbound on Calvin center. Hale lost control of his semi-trailer after hitting the tree and in-result, struck Hutchings' Vehicle with his trailer.

Hutchings was transported to Lakeland Niles Hospital by SMCAS for treatment of his injuries. Assisting agencies in this crash were MDOT and SMCAS. Aswell as True's Towing and Wallace Towing.

This accident remains under investigation.

CHI ISHOBAK

From page A1

restaurant's salad bar area into a warm, inviting two-story space that retains original components of the building.

"She was very instrumental in coming into what was a plain box and having a vision," said Executive Director Sean Winters. "What you see today couldn't happen without this wonderful mind here."

Winters said that as a certified native CDFI, 60 percent of Chi Ishobak's space has to remain in Indian country. While it has always been 100 percent with the main office formerly located at 27043 Potawatomi Trail, Winters said that the move downtown showcases Chi Ishobak's desire to be a contributing factor to downtown and to the community as a whole.

"Chi Ishobak is going to begin working with immediate area non-native entrepreneurs to help promote their projects and to help see their business plans come to light," he said. "We want to empower entrepreneurship and small business as the small town model continues to change. Dowagiac's a very special place and I'm happy to call it home. I was born and raised here and I am looking forward to making that contribution and seeing Dowagiac be a very wonderful place to be.

"We're looking forward to this next chapter in our organization's future."

DATA CENTER

From page A1

Lawyers from Liddle Sheets, P.C., a nationwide class action law firm based in Detroit, filed a class action lawsuit last month against the data center for creating a nuisance by emitting consistent, disruptive noise throughout the neighboring residential area.

City officials have stated that the data center is a customer of AEP, not the City of Dowagiac, meaning all conversations regarding electrical supply and support come from AEP. When it comes to water usage, the facility is currently a "relatively low, very modest water user" and does not use water for cooling.

To address noise concerns, the city council approved zoning ordinance amendments establishing decibel limits for both residential and commercial lots. The city has sent letters to ACS asking them to comply with the zoning ordinance.

1776

From page A1

ultimately, noble figures, determined to do the right thing for a fledgling nation," Beckwith's pre-show news release states.

The show will run Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through July 5 at the Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave., Dowagiac.

By any measure, "1776" remains one of the most unconventional Broadway successes. Created by Peter Stone (book) and Sherman Edwards (music/lyrics), the musical premiered in 1969. It went on to win multiple Tony Awards that year, including Best Book and Best Musical.

The resulting momentum led to a film in 1972, featuring the original Broadway cast. Several notable revivals of the show have followed – most recently in 2022, with a largely female, transgender and non-binary cast.

"It's a mid-20th century great American musical from what I'd call the 'golden age of musicals,' so it's fun," Murray said. "There's really good back and forth duets between the characters of John and Abigail Adams, with songs telling their letter writing – it tells their love story and her support for him as he's trying to lead the charge for independence."

Abigail Adams and Thomas Jefferson's wife, Martha, are the only two female characters in the show – which required Murray to find a workaround in casting.

"In community theatre, your chances of finding 25 men who want to sing – and give up their July Fourth weekend – are pretty slim," Murray said. "So we said, right from the beginning, 'We don't care what gender the actors are.' So we have a lot of women acting as male characters, and it's not a statement, it's just convenience."

The show will be presented using instrumental tracks, with the actors singing along, "because we don't have the facilities to house a live orchestra or a live band," he said.

The size of the cast also required Murray to make another workaround once rehearsals started in April – this time on the staging side.

"There's 25 people, and they're all sitting at desks," Murray said. "To fit everybody onstage, I had to take the walls back farther than we normally do – there's hardly any backstage because I had to move the walls so far. So that was probably the biggest technical challenge."

The way the show is crafted – with much of it taking place in one setting: the Continental Congress's meeting hall – allows the audience to focus on the issues it raises, usually in a humorous way, according to Murray.

"The characters joke about how history will remember them – there's even a line where John Adams says, 'No one's going to remember me, they're always talking to Ben Franklin,'" Murray said, laughing. "I would never take on a role with that many lines. It's a major, major role with hundreds and hundreds of lines."

For those reasons, no detailed historical knowledge is required, and patrons shouldn't expect any highly-charged statements, Murray said.

"We're not making political statements in any direction, we're just putting on a fun show. I just want people to have a good time and to appreciate the actors and all the work they've put into it. That's my hope," he said.

"1776" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). Tickets are available for $15 at beckwiththeatre.com.

For questions or further information, email BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com, or call 269-782-7653.

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

David Blair plays Thomas Jefferson in "1776."

ABOVE: Texas Brooks plays Judge James Wilson.
RIGHT: Zach Puplis plays Benjamin Franklin.

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Photo provided

From left: Maddie Zache, Jessie Thornton, Ali Geritts.

Niles flag football trio named all-state

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A trio of Vikings were recognized for their play on the field this spring.

Maddie Zache was named second team all-state by the Detroit Free Press and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. Teammates Jessie Thornton and Ali Gerrits were named all-state honorable mention.

The Detroit Free Press and the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association teamed up to create the first all-state team for the Michigan Girls High School Flag Football League.

70 players from 25 teams were nominated out of 80 participating schools, with the leading vote-getters earning first and second team honors and the remaining nominees were named honorable mention.

Zache, a running back, rushed for 316 yards and three touchdowns and caught five passes for 79 yards.

Thornton split time at both running back and wide receiver and tallied 355 total yards of offense and six touchdowns. Geritts had 240 receiving yards on 14 catches on offense and had 11 flag pulls on defense. The trio helped propel the Vikings to a 3-1 record in their inaugural season.

Don Campbell / HP staff

Niles' Brenden Olsen was named to the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Dream Team for the second consecutive year.

Niles' Olsen named to Dream Team

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Accolades continue to roll in for Brenden Olsen.

The Niles senior was named to the MHSBCA Dream Team for the second consecutive year. Olsen, a University of Houston signee, batted .446 with 50 hits, 50 runs, seven home runs, 25 extra base hits and 25 stolen bases. He helped lead the Vikings to a school-record 29 wins and a third consecutive district title.

A new way forward

Yuki Iwamura / AP

Caleb Wilson walks off the stage after being selected by the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the NBA draft Tuesday.

NBA draft provides another look at Bryson Graham's vision for the rebuilding Chicago Bulls

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Bryson Graham took over the Chicago Bulls when he was hired as executive vice president of basketball operations in May. At his introductory news conference, he referenced the acronym SLAP – size, length, athleticism, physicality.

That vision is beginning to come into focus.

Chicago selected Caleb Wilson and Dailyn Swain in the first round of Graham's first draft with his new team on Tuesday night.

It was part of a busy stretch for the Bulls, who reportedly acquired Nic Claxton as part of a three-team trade on Monday night. Tiago Splitter was hired as coach last week.

The 6-foot-9 Wilson and 6-7 Swain are known for their athleticism and finishing ability, and the 6-11 Claxton shot 57 percent from the field while averaging 11.7 points for Brooklyn last season.

The three additions – along with Splitter's arrival – provide the strongest indication yet of how the Bulls might look under Graham.

"We're definitely not where we want to be, but we're establishing an identity," Graham said. "I think that's really important for this organization, especially where we're at right now. Both Caleb and Dailyn, they fit the bill. We're not addressing every skill yet. A lot of people might (ask), 'Where is the shooting at?' and things of that nature. I'm not typically worried about that right now."

Wilson made just seven 3-pointers in his only season at North Carolina, and Swain shot 37 percent (26 for 71) from deep during his junior year at Texas. But Graham said he thinks both players can improve their shooting skills.

What Wilson and Swain bring right now is defensive versatility – an important upgrade for Chicago after it allowed 121.5 points per game last season, ranking 28th overall in the NBA.

"The fastest way to find playing time and opportunity is on the defensive side of the ball," Graham said. "So as Dailyn comes in and as Caleb comes in, I'm looking for them to be tone-setters on that side of the floor and be pillars for this organization going forward."

Chicago selected Braden Smith with the No. 38 pick in the draft on Wednesday, but it traded the point guard to Indiana for Kam Jones, a 6-4 guard who was the No. 38 pick in the 2025 draft. The Bulls also received second-round pick swaps in 2028 and 2030 and cash from the Pacers. The Bulls also reportedly sent the No. 56 pick to the Los Angeles Lakers for cash.

Wilson, quite possibly the most athletic player in the draft, was the No. 4 pick after he averaged 19.8 points and 9.4 rebounds in 24 games with the Tar Heels. His season was cut short by left hand and right thumb injuries, but he said he feels great right now.

"My fit on the team is going to be, I'm just going to go hard, man, honestly," said Wilson, who turns 20 on July 18. "I'm going to make it happen. Whatever they need me to do, I going to do it and more."

Swain, taken at No. 15, played for Xavier for two seasons before transferring to Texas. He averaged 17.3 points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.6 assists last season with the Longhorns. He also led the team with 59 steals.

Swain prides himself in being what he called "a connective player." Asked what that means from a defensive perspective, he focused on being able to disrupt the opposing offense.

"You know, get them out of rhythm, read plays before they happen," Swain said, "get in the passing lanes and, you know, maybe help out a teammate. ... Just anything to help out on defense."

Chicago finished with a 31-51 record last season while missing the playoffs for the fourth straight year. Graham has described the Bulls as being "at the ground floor," so the development of Wilson and Swain will be a major factor in the direction and timeline for the team's future.

Swain, for one, seemed excited about beginning his NBA career alongside Wilson.

"He is an electric player. Every time you watch him, he has a highlight," said Swain, who turns 21 on July 15. "I've just seen like a five-minute video of all his dunks from this season. It was the longest thing I've watched. ... I think we're going to be great together."

Arnold's plummet is tragic and costly, for him and Lions

Bob Wojnowski

The first snapshot was suitable for framing. There was Terrion Arnold in a shiny pink-and-silver suit, beaming as the crowd roared and chanted his name. The Lions had boldly traded up to draft the Alabama cornerback, and on that April night two years ago in Detroit's Campus Martius Park, in front of record crowds, the football world was his, the possibilities endless.

The snapshot Thursday in a Tampa courtroom told a much different story, tragic and timeless. Arnold wore a green sleeveless prison smock – often used for suicide prevention – that showed the muscled arms of an elite athlete, and the blank look of a 23-year-old man in unfathomable trouble.

Arnold is facing three counts of kidnapping, three counts of armed robbery, one count of conspiracy to kidnap and one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery from a February incident in Tampa. He's one of seven charged in the case, and according to the state attorney's office, the criminal charges carry a potential sentence of up to life in prison. Arnold is scheduled to appear at a pretrial detention hearing Monday, when the state is expected to argue he should be denied bail. Arnold, through his attorney, denies all charges.

That's important to remember here. It's too early to render judgment in a confusing tale of betrayal and revenge. Arnold is accused of "coordinating and directing" the armed robbery of multiple victims in retaliation for thefts of $250,000 in cash and property from Arnold's Florida rental home.

It's not too early to render judgment on the devastation, personal and professional. Arnold's NFL career was already under scrutiny, as he struggled with injuries and on-field miscues in 2025 after a promising rookie year. He was at the Lions' practices last week, but limited as he recovered from shoulder surgery.

Arnold was not quite his buoyant self, and said he was about "75-80%" healthy. He was expected to return to his starting role at cornerback this season, but Dan Campbell was guaranteeing nothing. Arnold's legal troubles were known, and his physical issues were concerning.

Normally the loudest, brightest

See **WOJNOWSKI**, page B1

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Boynton 'excited to serve' as Michigan's interim head coach

By JAMES HAWKINS
The Detroit News (TNS)

Michigan basketball didn't look far to find a temporary leader for the program during a whirlwind week.

Mike Boynton Jr. was named interim head coach by athletic director Warde Manuel on Tuesday, a day after news broke of Dusty May's departure for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue to lead us," Boynton told BTN's Andy Katz on Tuesday night at the NBA Draft, where Morez Johnson Jr. (No. 9 overall pick), Yaxel Lendeborg (No. 11 pick) and Aday Mara (No. 12 pick) were selected in the first round.

In a statement on Tuesday, Manuel called Boynton, May's top assistant coach the past two seasons, "the right person" to promote "in an interim capacity," though it's unclear for how long. Manuel didn't mention a commitment to making Boynton, 44, the permanent head coach nor if a coaching search was being conducted to find May's replacement.

When asked what Manuel told him about being the interim and potentially full-time head coach, Boynton said he's "recognizing the opportunity" and knows what can be accomplished at Michigan, with the Wolverines winning their first national title since 1989 this past season.

"We've got really good players, really good resources, a great fan base, and I'm excited to serve our players in our program," Boynton said.

Due to the coaching change, Michigan players will have the opportunity to explore their options. Under NCAA rules, a 15-day transfer window will open five days after May's replacement is hired. If a new permanent head coach isn't publicly announced within 30 days of May's departure, the 15-day window will open on the 31st day.

After losing four starters and two key reserves from last season's national title team, Michigan reloaded and restocked its talent to assemble what's viewed as a top-10 roster heading into next season.

The Wolverines added a top-five freshman class headlined by McDonald's All-Americans Brandon McCoy Jr. and Quinn Costello. They brought in frontcourt players Moustapha Thiam, J.P. Estrella and Jalen Reed in a transfer class that ranks No. 12 in the nation by 247Sports. And they brought back key returners Elliot Cadeau and Trey McKenney.

If Michigan plans to repeat as Big Ten champions and defend its national title, it's going to need to keep its team intact.

"We feel good about the relationships that our staff has with the players on the team," Boynton said. "These guys all committed to come to Michigan to play together. The team that we put together, we feel like can compete nationally and certainly at the higher end of the Big Ten."

McKenney told The Detroit News on Monday that he doesn't plan on going elsewhere. He seemed to reaffirm that stance with a social media post that read: "Victors always stay #HA1L #GoBlue."

Boynton noted that "conversations are ongoing" with the players on Michigan's roster.

"I'm glad for all the guys who've already made their intentions known," he said. "I look forward to continuing to talk to the guys who haven't officially and getting them on board as well."

Prior to joining May's staff in Ann Arbor, Boynton was head coach at Oklahoma State from 2017-24. Across those seven seasons, he posted a 119-109 record, made one NCAA Tournament and coached Detroit Pistons star Cade Cunningham for a year.

At Michigan, Boynton has been in charge of the defense, which was downright dominant last season and ranked No. 1 in KenPom's defensive efficiency.

Given his experience, background and familiarity with the program, the hope is Boynton can be a steady hand that the team needs – however long that may be.

"Mike has been an invaluable member of our staff and a respected leader throughout his career," Manuel said. "He knows what Michigan basketball represents and has earned the trust and respect of our student-athletes and everyone in our program. His experience, character and commitment to our values make him the right person to guide the team during this transition."

Mavs hire Dusty May just in time for NBA draft, then pick a former player

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks lured Dusty May away from national champion Michigan just in time for the NBA draft.

Then they selected one of their new coach's players with the No. 9 overall pick in the first round Tuesday night.

"The Michigan Mavs," forward/center Morez Johnson Jr. said moments after the selection was announced in New York – and less than two hours after Mavericks president of basketball operations Masai Ujiri said he wasn't concerned about the timing of May's hiring as it related to the draft. Ujiri added that of course the club would welcome the new coach's input.

"He'll be involved because he's a college coach," said Ujiri, whose team also had the final pick of the first round at No. 30. "He has interaction with his players. We want to know as much information as we can on these players."

The Mavericks officially announced the hiring of May a few hours before the draft. Dallas also has the 48th overall pick in the second round Wednesday night.

May is making the jump to the NBA less than three months after leading Michigan to its first NCAA championship since 1989. He had a 64-13 record in two years with the Wolverines, including a 34-3 season that ended with a 69-63 victory over UConn in the national title game.

The Mavericks made their choice to replace Jason Kidd official on the same day they added Johnson in the next step of building around 2025 No. 1 pick and reigning Rookie of the Year Cooper Flagg, who turns 20 in December.

The 20-year-old Johnson averaged 13.1 points and 7.3 rebounds as a sophomore with Michigan after spending his freshman season at Illinois.

"It's a different ballgame with NIL in college. It's like a professional league," said Ujiri, who let Kidd go about two weeks after getting hired by the Mavericks in May. "Many things I think translate in some kind of way. I look at the style of play, big players, how he sees the game. And then I look at the person. Incredible person."

Chris Szagola / AP

New York Mets relief pitcher David Peterson delivers during the second inning of a game against the Philadelphia Phillies on June 21.

Cubs acquire left-hander Peterson in a trade with Mets

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — The Chicago Cubs have patched a hole in their depleted rotation by acquiring struggling left-hander David Peterson in a trade with the New York Mets.

The deal was announced before Thursday's series finale between the teams at Citi Field.

"We're hopeful that we can get a starting pitcher that can kind of solidify some kind of needs for us and hopefully give him a fresh start and get him back to some success that he's had," Cubs manager Craig Counsell said.

Chicago president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer said the teams were discussing a Peterson deal for about six weeks but that negotiations ramped up after the Cubs placed Ben Brown and Edward Cabrera on the 15-day injured list on Wednesday, adding to their injury woes in their rotation. Brown has a neck strain, and Cabrera is sidelined with a left hamstring strain.

Jameson Taillon, Cade Horton and Justin Steele also are on the IL. Matthew Boyd was activated from the injured list ahead of his start on Thursday in Brown's spot.

New York received minor league infielder Cole Mathis in the trade. The 22-year-old Mathis, a second-round pick in the 2024 amateur draft, is batting .272 with 10 homers and 39 RBIs in 39 games over two stops this year.

The Cubs are hopeful their infield defense will allow Peterson – who has a 52.9 percent groundball rate – to benefit from the change of scenery. Chicago has one of baseball's best defensive infields, and New York committed six errors – all in the infield – during Wednesday night's 10-5 loss in the second game of a doubleheader.

"He's been a really good pitcher in the big leagues, throws strikes, keeps the ball on the ground, which is something we haven't done particularly well," Hoyer said.

Peterson broke out in 2024, when he posted a 2.90 ERA in 21 starts following hip surgery before recording his first career save by getting the final three outs of the Mets' wild card series-clinching win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

He was also terrific for much of last year, making the NL All-Star team and throwing his first career shutout while going 8-5 with a 3.18 ERA in his first 24 starts.

But Peterson had a 10.36 ERA over his last six starts, and the rough finish carried over into this year. The 30-year-old, who is eligible for free agency after the season, is 3-6 with a 6.09 ERA in eight starts and eight relief appearances.

He has a 10.97 ERA in three appearances this month. He allowed four earned runs and six hits in four innings in a 6-2 loss at Philadelphia on Sunday.

"He's an All-Star last year and then kind of everything went the other way," Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "Credit to the coaches that were here last year that put everything (into) continuing to help him (and) this year's coaching staff. But it just didn't work."

Peterson was selected by New York in the first round of the 2017 draft out of the University of Oregon. He made his major league debut in 2020, when he went 6-2 with a 3.44 ERA in nine starts and one relief appearance, and was the Mets' longest-tenured player at the time of the trade.

"It's a tough one because you understand this is a business, but especially from my end, I had a really good relationship with 'Petey,'" Mendoza said. "This is a guy that will come in the office and have coffee and just talk about life."

Peterson hadn't yet suited up for the Cubs by first pitch Thursday night. He is expected to join Chicago for this weekend's three-game series at the Milwaukee Brewers.

Counsell said he talked to Peterson Thursday morning and sensed some excitement as well as some surprise regarding the trade.

"I think you could hear in his voice – very normal when a player's been with an organization for 10 years and it's their first organization and you're traded," Counsell said.

In a pair of corresponding moves, the Cubs designated right-hander Yosver Zulueta for assignment and optioned right-hander Gavin Hollowell to Triple-A Iowa.

WOJNOWSKI

From page B2

voice on the field, Arnold walked off that day subdued, trying to summon his trademark confidence. He declined to talk about the Tampa incident, and when asked if he'd grown from the experience, he smiled.

"I feel like I've grown as a person just because when you have to sit back, you just look at everything, you just be quiet," Arnold said. "Sometimes silence is the best answer to everything. It's growth, as far as being a man and as far as being a player."

It was suggested that he doesn't seem like the silent type, more like someone who would engage a large circle of friends.

"Nah," he said. "I'm a home guy, hang around my family and stuff like that. As far as things like that – when certain things happen in life, it's best to remain silent."

Arnold likely won't be able to stay silent through the court proceedings, where two of his co-defendants have agreed to testify against him. The Lions, who have stood behind Arnold through it all, declined to comment "out of respect for the ongoing legal process."

What a depressing, disturbing waste, no matter the final verdict. It's a waste of talent by Arnold, and could become a much sadder waste if he's convicted. What a waste for the other defendants, and for the victims, who allegedly were held at gunpoint and pistol-whipped. The state attorney's office claims "there is no evidence to prove the victims were involved in the theft."

And yes, back to where the story began, on a brisk night on a huge stage in downtown Detroit. For some reason, the Lions have long been plagued by misfortune on their defense, especially in the secondary. GM Brad Holmes has spent plenty of draft capital on defensive backs and lost many of them to injury or ineffectiveness. Star safeties Brian Branch and Kerby Joseph are still trying to return from serious surgeries.

As it stands now, Rock Ya-Sin and D.J. Reed are slated to be the starting cornerbacks, with Roger McCreary and rookie Keith Abney in contention. The position is a perennial weakness, not that the Lions have neglected it. Holmes moved up five slots in the 2024 draft to take Arnold, a first-team All-American who was considered pro-ready. He lit rooms with his charisma and energy and lit up the national broadcast on draft night when he grabbed the microphone on stage.

"I just want to say, 'Detroit, hey, I'm home!'" he bellowed. "These fans gonna be crazy, goll-ee! I'm gonna help them win a Super Bowl!"

Anything seemed possible then, including an actual Super Bowl trip for the Lions. The path from that night to now is littered with hope and disappointment for Arnold and the Lions.

Campbell seemed different during camp, toned down, more on edge. After missing the playoffs, he was sparse with his praise. He seemed bothered by the progress of some players.

"It's just we need to see growth, we need to see development," Campbell said. "At some point, you can't wait anymore. It's not fair to everybody else on this roster, or the coaches, or anybody."

Campbell didn't mention names, but it wasn't hard to guess one of the players he was referencing. He talked to Arnold one-on-one after the final practice, and there weren't a lot of smiles and laughs.

Did Campbell offer some pointed advice?

"There really hasn't been advice, as far as issues like that," Arnold said. "But I mean, just having everybody in the building's support, and obviously knowing that you have a coach that will go to bat for you, it means everything. It was the same thing when I came here and I got drafted. Brad always said, 'When you come here, man, this is a family.' A lot of guys preach that, but honestly, this place feels like home."

He's a long way from home, a long way from the glittering stage, a long way from where he dreamed he'd be. No premature judgment and no overwrought sympathy here. If he's innocent, you just hope he can find his way back.

Bob Wojnowski is a columnist for The Detroit News.

MLB's draft overhaul would limit choices for teen players

By DAVID BRANDT
AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX — James Clark is a young man with enticing options on his baseball horizon.

The promising 18-year-old shortstop was taking infield practice Tuesday during the MLB draft combine at Chase Field, fluidly handling ground balls before firing to first base. It's one of many reasons the California native has a chance to be selected in the first round of next month's draft.

But if he decides he's not ready to start his professional baseball career, he's committed to play college ball at Duke, which has a successful baseball program and an elite academic reputation.

"It's going to be a difficult decision," Clark said. "But it's a good one to have."

If MLB gets it's way, it's a decision that future baseball prospects won't get to make.

Owners recently proposed banning high school players from signing with major league teams, raising the age for international amateurs and slashing the money spent on signing bonuses in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

If the league gets its way, starting in 2028, a prospect for the amateur draft would have to be at least 20 years old by the Sept. 1 of his signing year and two years removed from the graduating year of his high school class – a restriction that also would eliminate players who completed their first year of junior college.

Pistons 'super excited' with Okorie draft selection

By COTY M. DAVIS
The Detroit News (TNS)

DETROIT — A week leading up to the 2026 NBA Draft, president of basketball operations Trajan Langdon revealed that he will look at everything when it comes to revamping the Detroit Pistons' roster this summer. One scenario Langdon hinted at was moving up in the draft if the team had a chance to acquire one of their preferred prospects.

During the first round of the NBA Draft on Tuesday night, the Pistons traded with the Memphis Grizzlies to move up to No.17 from No. 21. As a result, they selected Ebuka Okorie, 19, from Stanford.

As part of the deal, the Pistons sent three future second-round picks to the Grizzlies. A source confirmed the trade with The Detroit News. The Grizzlies selected forward Karim Lopez from Australia at No. 21.

"Super excited about Ebuka," Langdon said. "I've watched him for a while, and then he just exploded onto the scene. He is a high-character young man who loves the game of basketball. We think he will come in and fit well with the culture.

"He has incredible speed with the ball in his hands ... We are incredibly excited to have a guy like him. A guy who can get to the paint at will. Not only score for us, but in the halfcourt, have a little more creation."

The selection of Okorie in the draft enhances the depth of the Pistons' backcourt. He is a 6-foot-2 combo guard who can play both on and off the ball. Okorie averaged 23.2 points in 32 games played as a freshman at Stanford this season. He led the ACC in scoring and ranked seventh nationally, all while shooting 46.5 percent from the field and 35.4 percent from behind the arc.

As a score-first guard, Okorie's playmaking ability has been overlooked at times, but he still has the potential to be a reliable playmaker, averaging 3.6 assists per game. One of the best parts of Okorie's game is his ability to attack downhill, whether as a scorer or a facilitator, due to his speed.

"A lot of emotions, just grateful for this opportunity," Okorie said. "I am not going to take this for granted. I'm going to keep working every day. I feel like playing alongside Cade (Cunningham), I'll just be another playmaker on the floor. Another shot creator who can create for himself and others. On the defensive end, bring the intensity."

Before the deal with the Pistons, the No. 17 pick originally belonged to the Oklahoma City Thunder. However, the Grizzlies and Thunder swapped the picks during an earlier trade.

Julio Cortez / AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi, center, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the World Cup Group J soccer match between Argentina and Austria on Monday.

World Cup is half over, but the drama is just getting started

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

It's halftime at the World Cup. Take a break, everyone.

Wednesday marked the midpoint of the 104-match tournament – technically, just past the midpoint, with 54 matches now in the books and 50 remaining before a World Cup champion is crowned in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on July 19.

The U.S. has reached the Round of 32, which shouldn't be surprising. Mexico and Canada, the other host nations for this biggest World Cup in history, are also through to the knockout stage. And the stars are positively shining: Argentina's Lionel Messi has five goals to kick-start what he hopes is a run toward a second consecutive World Cup title. France's Kylian Mbappé has four, as do Norway's Erling Haaland and Brazil's Vinicius Júnior.

Stadiums are mostly filled; FIFA is touting record attendance. And there have been some feel-good stories, most notably the tale of Cape Verde goalie Vozinha and how his mother was able to come to this World Cup.

"The best is yet to come," FIFA President Gianni Infantino told SNTV earlier this week.

In other words, the second half of this tournament – just like the second half of matches – is when things might get really good.

Who's in

Through Wednesday's games, 13 teams have clinched spots in the Round of 32.

Mexico won Group A, Switzerland won Group B, Brazil won Group C, the U.S. won Group D, Germany won Group E and Argentina won Group J.

France, Norway, Canada, Morocco, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and South Africa also are assured of moving into the knockout stage.

"I know how it feels, but it's very difficult to explain how it feels," South Africa coach Hugo Broos said after his team clinched its first-ever appearance in the knockout stage. "I'm very happy for the guys."

The U.S. path

This much is clear: The only match the U.S. might play in the Eastern time zone will be the World Cup final.

The Americans will begin the Round of 32 in Santa Clara, California, on July 1. If they win, they'll go to Seattle for the Round of 16. Win that, and it'll be off to Inglewood, California, for the quarterfinals. Win that, and Arlington, Texas, will be calling for the semifinals.

The most likely opponent for the U.S. in the Round of 32 is Bosnia and Herzegovina. After that, it would seem likely that Egypt could be waiting.

What happens now (or starting Sunday)

Once group play ends, the drama really begins.

It's called the knockout stage for a reason – if you don't win in this round, you're knocked out of the tournament. (The only time that won't apply is the semifinals, since the losers of those games will get sent to Miami Gardens, Florida, to decide third place.)

What's offside? And all your other World Cup questions, answered

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This World Cup has prompted some questions we simply can't answer for you.

Can anyone stop Messi? Does Merlin the duck like wearing that jersey? What happens if the Congo's statue fan has to sneeze?

That said, if you're a first-time soccer watcher still confused by all this footie, we're here to help! Free kicks, hydration breaks, stoppage time ... there's a lot to know. We put out a call for your burning World Cup questions – and we'll keep answering them if you have more.

What does 'offsides' mean?

Well, first off, it's "offside," per the AP Stylebook. Secondly, this is a common question – and one that can make you appear a soccer aficionado if you know the answer. Essentially, a player is offside if he or she is closer to the opponent's goal line than the ball and second-to-last opposition player (the goalkeeper is usually the last) the moment the ball is passed by a teammate. There are various caveats – for example, you cannot be offside inside your own half – but that is the gist. It can be confusing and a source of great debate.

Why doesn't the clock stop for penalties and injuries?

Unlike American football, basketball or hockey, the clock never stops in soccer. If there are delays for such things as injuries, blatant time-wasting or the aftermath of goals, those seconds or minutes are added on at the end of each half in a period called "stoppage time." There's an extra twist in this World Cup: hydration breaks. These three-minute stoppages in the middle of each half have been introduced to help players deal with the summer heat in the United States, Canada and Mexico (they're also a convenient spot for extra TV ads). Those three-minute blocks must also be added to the overall stoppage time, meaning there is typically at least five minutes of extra play in each half of this World Cup.

What's the difference between a free kick and a penalty kick?

Well, both are dead-ball situations and given after fouls. The key difference is that a penalty kick is awarded after a foul inside the penalty area – the big rectangle drawn near the opposing goal – and a free kick is awarded outside the penalty area. A penalty is a free shot at goal – from the designated spot, which is central and 12 yards (11 meters) out – with just the goalkeeper able to stop the shot. A free kick can be defended against by a whole team and is taken from where the offense occurred.

What's the deal with the 5-second throw-in rule?

It's another new measure being implemented at this World Cup with the intention of speeding up play and stopping time-wasting. If referees deem a player is taking too long on a throw-in, they can start a visual five-second countdown. If it reaches five seconds, the throw-in will be awarded to the opposing team. And it has already happened, with Bosnia-Herzegovina defender Sead Kolašinac giving up a throw-in for taking too long against Canada.

Classifieds
Marketplace

Niles, Niles Charter, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and the surrounding areas

25 N. 2nd St., Niles, MI 49120
(269) 429-1396

LeaderPub.com
legals@pmginmi.com
classified@heraldpalladium.com

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

That a public hearing will be held by the Dowagiac Planning Commission in the Council Chambers of the Dowagiac City Hall, 241 South Front Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047, on Monday, June 29, 2026 at 7:00 pm to hear comments on a re-zoning petition submitted by the city of Dowagiac of parcel # 14-160-110-056-03 and a Site Plan Report submitted by Steven Green to build a new Tire retail service and sales building located on the same parcel number.

Legal Descriptions:

P56 COM N 87 DEG l 5'37"W 2592.17 FT & N 87 DEG 17'8"W 359. 76 FT FRM E 1/4 COR, TH N 87 DEG 17'8"W 2224.81 FT, N 1 DEG 13'48"E 1248.51 FT, S 88 DEG 7'E 2725.06 FT, S 1 DEG 30'33"W 245.06 FT, S 88 DEG 7'E 355.5 FT, S 1 DEG 30'33"W 354.94 FT, N 87 DEG 15'37"W 435.82 FT, N 1 DEG 30'33"E 282.42 FT, N 87 DEG 7'W 414.25 FT, S 1 DEG 30'33"W 969.66 FT TO BEG. SEC 2 71.59 A. UNPLATTED POKAGON SUBJECT TO 425 WITH POKAGON TOWNSHIP EXPIRES 31 MARCH 2050

DATED June 18, 2026
Amanda Sleigh
Assistant City Manager

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

That a public hearing will be held by the Dowagiac Planning Commission in the Council Chambers of the Dowagiac City Hall, 241 South Front Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 4904 7, on Monday, June 29, 2026 at 7:00 pm to hear comments on a Site Plan Report submitted by the Bridge Church# 14-160-200-184-00 for an extension to the existing building.

Legal Descriptions:

. DW 341D BEG AT SE COR LOT 1, FAIRFIELD ACRES, TH S ON WLY LINE DAN. MC OMBER'S ADD 265 FT TO N LINE W PRAIRIE RONDE ST, TH W ON N LINE SD ST TO E LINE FAIRFIELD ACRES. TH NONE LINE SD PLAT TO SW COR LOT 1, TH S 89 DEG 20' E 147.5 FT TO PL OF BEG. UNPLATTED SILVER CREEK SEC 36 CITY OF DOWAGIAC.

DATED June 18, 2026
Amanda Sleigh
Assistant City Manager

Buy It. Sell It. Find It. CLASSIFIED.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION, ELECTION, & PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026, POKAGON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF POKAGON TOWNSHIP:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Pokagon Township who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk, the office of County Clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, July 20, 2026.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.497) at the Pokagon Township Clerks office, located at 30683 Peavine St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 at the following times:
Regular business hours, call ahead for office hours
Sunday August 2, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Pokagon Township electors will be voting on the following:

OFFICES ON THE BALLOT
Governor
United States Senator
Representative in Congress - 5th District
State Senator - 17th District
Representative in State Legislature - 36th or 37th District
Precinct Delegate

PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT
CASS COUNTY
911 Central Dispatch Renewal Millage Proposal
Renewal not to exceed .1962 mill ($0.1962 per each $1,000 pf taxable value) on all taxable property in the County of Cass for the purpose of funding the costs for the operation of the 911 Central Dispatch.

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the Pokagon Township Clerk's office, 30683 Peavine St. Dowagiac, MI 49047, telephone: 269-782-8756. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting: Pokagon Twp. Clerk, Christina Davis: clerk@pokagontownshipmi.gov or Ph: 269-782-8756

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF POKAGON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Accuracy Test for the August 4, 2026, Primary Election will be conducted for the Township of Pokagon on the following date and location:

Pokagon Township Hall
30683 Peavine St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
Monday, July 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer used to tabulate the results of the August 4, 2026, Primary Election have been prepared in accordance with the law.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodation should contact the clerk's office.

Christina Davis, Pokagon Township Clerk

0500 MERCHANDISE

LOOK!

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0700 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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$895 each Call 352-406-9575

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-0465-DE-J

Court address:
811 Port Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085
Court phone no.
269-983-7111

Estate of Koral Goldie England, deceased
Date of birth: 03/01/1939

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Koral Goldie England, died 01/13/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gerald L. Scull personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 06/22/2026

Attorney: John R. Colip
Bar no. P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

Gerald L. Scull
Personal representative(s)
884 Pless Road
Cleveland, GA 30528
770-654-9179

Howard Township
Cass County, Michigan
Board of Trustees
June 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Board Action
Approved Meeting Agenda.
Approved the minutes of the 5/19/26 Board Meeting
Approved the financial report with an ending balance of 2,151,467.08 including a CD
Approved the payment of bills through June 16, 2026
Approved the departmental reports
Public Comment Occurred
Tabled Ord #237 Data Center Moratorium
Public Comment Occurred
Adjourn the meeting at 7:50p.m.

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-133-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Court address Court telephone no.
60296 M-62, Suite 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-445-4454

Estate of: Joan Ella Hahn, deceased
Date of birth:* 06/26/1933

TO ALL CREDITORS:**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Joan Ella Hahn, died 02/17/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Colleen M. Laino and Kethleen M. Kennum, personal representative, or to both the probate court 60296 M-62, Suite 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031 at and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 06/04/2026

Benjamin J. Herbert P70082
Attorney name Bar no.
5830 Venture Park Dr.
Address
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
City, state, zip
269-459-1432
Telephone no.

Colleen M. Laino/
Kethleen M. Kennum
Personal representative(s)
9727 Acqua Ct, Unit 426/
62545 Diamond View
Address
Naples, FL 34113/
Cassopolis, MI 49031
City, state, zip
815-685-6386/
708-254-7771
Telephone no.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-141-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Estate of: Maryann Dobransky, Deceased
Date of birth: 04/21/1941

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Mayann Dobransky, died 04/18/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Eugene G. Dobransky, Jr., personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: June 3, 2026

William L. LaBre, J.D. P27857
Attorney name Bar no.
68897 S. Cass St.
Address
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
City, state, zip
269-663-8554
Telephone no.

Eugene G. Dobransky, Jr.
Personal representative name
25321 U.S. 12
Address
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
City, state, zip

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-140-DE

Court address Court telephone no.
60296 M-62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-4475

Estate of: Larry Dale Williams, Deceased
Date of Birth: * 01/29/1939

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Larry Dale Williams died 03/26/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Katherin Marie Kuckenbaker (f/k/a Katherin Marie Williams, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 06/18/2026

Andrew W. Barnes P70571
Attorney name Bar no.
317 Center Street
Address
South Haven, MI 49090
City, state, zip
(269)287-2010
Telephone no.

Katherin Marie Kuckenbaker
(f/k/a Katherin Marie Williams
Personal representative
70090 Brush Road
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, state, zip
(574)850-6679
Telephone no.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Jefferson Township Board
Regular Meeting Synopsis –
June 11, 2026
Supervisor Hass called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present: Locke, Bundle, Hass, Mendenhall.
REGULAR MEETING BOARD ACTION
• May 21, 2026, meeting minutes approved.
•Treasurer's Report given.
•Payment of bills authorized.
Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Locke, Clerk

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269-591-0100

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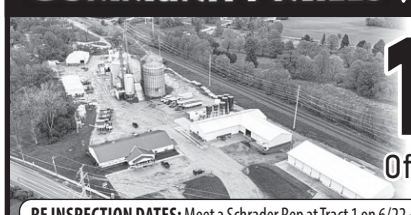
SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

GET MORE LOCAL NEWS, DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOU!

GIVE US A CALL AND SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

LOCATION (AUCTIONS HELD ONSITE):
611 S O'Keefe St (M62), Cassopolis, MI 40031

COMMUNITY MILLS Auctions



11.92± acres
Offered in 4 Tracts

RE INSPECTION DATES: Meet a Schrader Rep at Tract 1 on 6/22 • 10am-1pm; 6/27 • 10am-12pm; 6/29 • 10am-12pm & 7/13 • 1-3pm

Real Estate: Monday, July 13 • 6pm
• Retail & Office Building • Fertilizer & Chemical Buildings • Tank Field Inside Chemical Building • Dry Fertilizer Load Out Equipment • Grain & Mill Handling System 500,000 Plus Bu. Capacity

INSPECTION DATES: 6/27 • 10am-12pm; 6/29 • 10am-12pm; 7/13 • 1-3pm & 7/17 • 10am-1pm

Equipment: Saturday, July 18 • 10am
• Fertilizer & Crop Care • Feed & Grain Equipment • Semi Tractors • Light Trucks • Seed Handling Equipment • General Equipment

OWNER: Community Mills Inc., Ray McKenzie • 269.251.4047
SALE MANAGER: Edward D. Boyer • 574.215.7653 #6501225192
Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.
800.451.2709 • MI Real Estate Broker Lic. #6505397356

SCHRADER Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc. **800.451.2709 SchraderAuction.com**

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 5, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frank J. Coussens, III, a single man
Original Mortgagee: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: August 24, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 10, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $86,087.70
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Ontwa, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 46, 47 and 48, Eagle Park, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 98, Cass County Records.
Common street address (if any): 68776 West St, Edwardsburg, MI 49112-9585
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: June 13, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1595615 (06-13)(07-04)

Penn Township, Cass County, Michigan
TO: PROPERTY OWNERS OF ALL PROPERTIES THAT BORDER DONNELL LAKE AND BACK LOTS WITH DEEDED OR DEDICATED ACCESS TO THE LAKE IN PENN TOWNSHIP, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Penn Township Board proposes to implement an improvement project for Donnell Lake that includes aquatic plant control, lake management consulting, and administration and contingency, and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said special assessment district is proposed to include all properties that border the lake and back lots with deeded or dedicated access to the lake. Properties in said special assessment district are more specifically described as follows:

14-100-035-001-01	14-100-280-036-00	14-100-290-018-00	14-100-321-003-01	14-100-360-040-00
14-100-035-001-10	14-100-280-037-00	14-100-290-019-01	14-100-321-004-01	14-100-360-042-00
14-100-035-002-00	14-100-280-038-00	14-100-290-020-50	14-100-321-006-00	14-100-360-044-00
14-100-035-003-00	14-100-280-039-00	14-100-290-021-00	14-100-321-007-00	14-100-360-047-00
14-100-035-004-00	14-100-280-040-00	14-100-290-025-10	14-100-321-008-00	14-100-360-048-00
14-100-035-005-00	14-100-280-041-01	14-100-290-033-00	14-100-340-002-00	14-100-360-049-00
14-100-035-006-00	14-100-280-045-00	14-100-300-001-00	14-100-340-004-01	14-100-360-051-00
14-100-035-007-00	14-100-280-046-05	14-100-300-003-10	14-100-340-004-51	14-100-360-052-01
14-100-035-008-00	14-100-280-047-00	14-100-300-003-20	14-100-340-006-00	14-100-360-054-00
14-100-035-009-00	14-100-280-049-00	14-100-300-004-01	14-100-340-007-00	14-100-360-055-00
14-100-035-017-00	14-100-280-053-00	14-100-300-004-10	14-100-340-008-01	14-100-370-056-00
14-100-036-042-01	14-100-280-054-00	14-100-300-004-20	14-100-340-009-01	14-100-370-057-01
14-100-036-044-00	14-100-280-056-00	14-100-300-005-00	14-100-340-010-00	14-100-370-059-00
14-100-036-045-00	14-100-280-057-02	14-100-300-006-00	14-100-340-011-00	14-100-370-060-00
14-100-036-045-50	14-100-280-058-00	14-100-300-007-00	14-100-340-011-50	14-100-370-061-00
14-100-260-001-00	14-100-280-059-00	14-100-300-008-00	14-100-340-013-00	14-100-370-063-00
14-100-260-002-00	14-100-280-060-00	14-100-300-009-00	14-100-340-014-00	14-100-370-064-00
14-100-260-003-00	14-100-280-061-00	14-100-300-010-01	14-100-340-015-00	14-100-370-065-01
14-100-260-004-00	14-100-280-062-02	14-100-300-011-00	14-100-340-016-01	14-100-370-067-00
14-100-260-005-00	14-100-280-063-01	14-100-300-012-00	14-100-340-018-00	14-100-370-069-00
14-100-260-007-00	14-100-280-064-01	14-100-300-013-00	14-100-340-019-00	14-100-370-071-00
14-100-260-008-00	14-100-280-066-00	14-100-300-014-00	14-100-340-020-00	14-100-370-073-00
14-100-260-010-00	14-100-280-067-01	14-100-300-018-01	14-100-340-021-01	14-100-370-075-01
14-100-260-011-00	14-100-280-069-01	14-100-300-020-02	14-100-340-024-00	14-100-370-078-00
14-100-260-012-00	14-100-280-070-01	14-100-300-024-00	14-100-340-025-00	14-100-370-086-00
14-100-260-013-00	14-100-280-072-00	14-100-300-025-00	14-100-340-026-00	14-100-370-088-00
14-100-260-014-00	14-100-280-073-00	14-100-300-026-00	14-100-340-027-00	14-100-370-090-00
14-100-260-015-00	14-100-280-074-00	14-100-300-027-00	14-100-340-028-00	14-100-380-001-00
14-100-260-016-00	14-100-280-076-00	14-100-300-029-00	14-100-340-029-00	14-100-380-002-00
14-100-260-017-00	14-100-280-077-00	14-100-300-030-00	14-100-340-030-00	14-100-380-003-00
14-100-260-018-00	14-100-280-078-00	14-100-300-030-51	14-100-340-031-00	14-100-380-004-00
14-100-260-019-00	14-100-280-079-00	14-100-300-031-00	14-100-340-032-00	14-100-380-005-00
14-100-260-020-00	14-100-280-081-00	14-100-300-032-01	14-100-340-033-00	14-100-380-006-00
14-100-260-021-00	14-100-280-082-00	14-100-300-035-00	14-100-340-034-00	14-100-380-007-00
14-100-260-022-00	14-100-280-083-00	14-100-300-036-00	14-100-360-001-00	14-100-380-008-00
14-100-260-023-00	14-100-280-084-00	14-100-300-037-00	14-100-360-002-00	14-100-380-009-00
14-100-260-025-00	14-100-280-085-03	14-100-310-001-00	14-100-360-003-00	14-100-380-010-10
14-100-260-026-00	14-100-280-087-02	14-100-310-003-04	14-100-360-004-00	14-100-380-011-00
14-100-280-001-00	14-100-280-089-00	14-100-310-006-50	14-100-360-006-00	14-100-380-012-01
14-100-280-002-00	14-100-280-090-01	14-100-310-008-01	14-100-360-008-00	14-100-380-015-00
14-100-280-003-00	14-100-280-092-00	14-100-310-010-00	14-100-360-009-00	14-100-380-016-01
14-100-280-004-00	14-100-280-093-01	14-100-310-011-00	14-100-360-011-00	14-100-380-018-00
14-100-280-005-00	14-100-280-094-00	14-100-310-012-00	14-100-360-012-00	14-100-380-019-00
14-100-280-006-00	14-100-280-095-00	14-100-310-014-00	14-100-360-013-00	14-100-380-020-00
14-100-280-007-00	14-100-280-096-00	14-100-310-015-00	14-100-360-014-00	14-100-380-024-01
14-100-280-008-00	14-100-280-097-00	14-100-310-016-00	14-100-360-015-00	14-100-380-025-00
14-100-280-009-00	14-100-280-099-00	14-100-310-017-00	14-100-360-016-00	14-100-380-026-00
14-100-280-010-00	14-100-280-100-00	14-100-310-019-01	14-100-360-017-00	14-100-380-028-01
14-100-280-011-00	14-100-280-101-00	14-100-310-021-01	14-100-360-018-00	14-100-390-093-00
14-100-280-012-00	14-100-280-114-02	14-100-310-022-00	14-100-360-019-00	14-100-390-095-01
14-100-280-013-00	14-100-280-136-00	14-100-320-001-00	14-100-360-020-00	14-100-390-096-00
14-100-280-014-00	14-100-280-139-00	14-100-320-003-01	14-100-360-021-00	14-100-390-097-02
14-100-280-015-00	14-100-290-001-01	14-100-320-004-00	14-100-360-022-01	14-100-390-099-01
14-100-280-016-00	14-100-290-001-51	14-100-320-005-00	14-100-360-023-01	14-100-390-101-01
14-100-280-017-00	14-100-290-002-00	14-100-320-006-00	14-100-360-024-00	14-100-390-104-01
14-100-280-018-00	14-100-290-003-00	14-100-320-007-00	14-100-360-025-00	14-100-400-003-00
14-100-280-019-00	14-100-290-004-00	14-100-320-008-00	14-100-360-027-00	14-100-400-004-00
14-100-280-020-00	14-100-290-005-00	14-100-320-008-50	14-100-360-028-00	14-100-400-005-01
14-100-280-021-00	14-100-290-006-00	14-100-320-009-00	14-100-360-029-00	14-100-400-006-01
14-100-280-022-00	14-100-290-007-00	14-100-320-011-01	14-100-360-030-00	14-100-400-007-00
14-100-280-023-00	14-100-290-008-00	14-100-320-012-00	14-100-360-031-01	14-100-400-008-00
14-100-280-024-00	14-100-290-010-00	14-100-320-013-00	14-100-360-032-00	14-100-400-009-00
14-100-280-025-00	14-100-290-011-00	14-100-320-014-00	14-100-360-033-00	14-100-430-001-02
14-100-280-026-00	14-100-290-012-00	14-100-320-015-01	14-100-360-034-00	14-100-430-003-00
14-100-280-028-00	14-100-290-013-00	14-100-320-016-00	14-100-360-035-01	14-100-430-004-00
14-100-280-031-00	14-100-290-014-00	14-100-320-017-00	14-100-360-036-00	14-100-430-005-00
14-100-280-032-00	14-100-290-015-00	14-100-320-024-00	14-100-360-037-00	14-100-430-006-00
14-100-280-034-00	14-100-290-016-10	14-100-321-001-00	14-100-360-038-00	14-100-430-007-00
14-100-280-035-00	14-100-290-017-00	14-100-321-002-00	14-100-360-039-00	

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the improvements together with an estimate of the costs of such improvements in the approximate amount of $19,320 per year for five years (2027 to 2031), has placed the same on file with the Township Clerk, and has passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make such improvements and to create the aforementioned special assessment district.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said plans and special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk from the date of this notice until and including the date of the public hearing hereon and may further be examined at such public hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon such plans, district, and estimate of costs will be held at Penn Township Hall, 60717 S. Main Street, Vandalia, Michigan, commencing at 6:30 pm on Monday, July 13, 2026.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if written objections to the improvement are filed with the Township Board, at or before the hearing, signed by record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the land area in the proposed special assessment district, then the Township Board may not proceed unless it determines that Petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the land area to be made into a special assessment district, have been filed with the Township. Property shall not be added to the proposed special assessment district and the original estimate of cost shall not be increased by more than 10% without further notice and public hearing.
At such hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which might be filed with said Board at or prior to the time of said hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to said plans, cost estimates, or to said special assessment district.
All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place and to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing.
Rhonda Barnett, Township Clerk
Penn Township, 60717 S. Main Street, Vandalia, MI 49095

Notice of Air Permit Comment Period

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is holding a public comment period and a virtual public hearing, if requested, to allow the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed conditional approval of an air permit.

The public comment period is open from June 25, 2026, until July 30, 2026, with a virtual public hearing, if requested, on July 28, 2026 for:

Company: Fibrosan Inc. is proposed to be located at 1805 Follett Drive in Cassopolis, Michigan.

What is open for comment: A request for a new fiber reinforced plastic facility that will be a major source of hazardous air pollutants and major source of volatile organic compounds. (Air Permit Application Package No. PKG-0001103)

Scan to see all PTIs Open for Comment

Technical details:
The public comment period and, if requested, virtual public hearing are to allow all interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed conditional approval of the Permit to Install (PTI).

It has been preliminarily determined that the installation of the new facility and equipment will not violate any of EGLE's rules nor the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. It has also been preliminarily determined that the proposed installation of the new facility is not subject to the state or federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration regulations.

Provide comment in any of these ways by July 30, 2026:

- **Online:** MiEnviro Portal
- **Email:** EGLE-AQD-PTIPublicComments@Michigan.gov
- **Voicemail:** Call 517-284-0900
- **Mail:** Permit Section Manager, EGLE, AQD, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760
- **At the virtual public hearing, *if requested*** on July 28, 2026, starting at the close of the informational session.

The virtual public hearing will *only* be held if requested in writing by July 21, 2026.

- Send hearing requests to the email or address listed above.
- ***If requested*, information on how to attend the virtual hearing will be posted** by July 23, 2026 at Michigan.gov/EGLEAirPublicNotice.

Get technical reports about this project:

- Online at Michigan.gov/EGLEAirPublicNotice, choose 'Applications Open for Comment'
- Kalamazoo: EGLE, AQD, 269-567-3500
- Cassopolis: City Clerk's Office, 269-445-8648
- Cassopolis: Cass County Clerk's Office, 269-445-4406
- Lansing: EGLE, AQD, 517-582-5117

Requests for translation or other accessibility concerns can be sent to: EGLEAccessibility@Michigan.gov.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, And Energy

Cindy Smith, Permit Section Manager

RESERVE THIS SPACE
TODAY!

TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING
MAGICIAN LAKE WEED AND AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that upon motion of the township board, as authorized by PA 188 of 1954, as amended, the township board proposes to undertake an aquatic plant control project (with associated activities) in Magician Lake in Silver Creek Township (including all lands with frontage on Magician Lake in Silver Creek Township) as more particularly described below, and to create/recreate/continue a special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefitted.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are to be specially assessed is more particularly described as follows:

The properties indicated by parcel numbers:

14-130-003-010-00	14-130-166-006-00	14-130-265-038-00	14-130-305-017-00
14-130-003-011-00	14-130-166-008-01	14-130-265-039-00	14-130-305-018-00
14-130-003-013-00	14-130-166-010-00	14-130-265-040-00	14-130-305-019-00
14-130-003-014-00	14-130-166-010-00	14-130-280-001-00	14-130-305-020-00
14-130-003-015-00	14-130-166-012-00	14-130-280-003-00	14-130-305-021-00
14-130-003-017-02	14-130-166-014-00	14-130-280-004-00	14-130-305-022-00
14-130-003-018-10	14-130-166-014-50	14-130-280-005-00	14-130-305-023-00
14-130-003-019-00	14-130-166-015-00	14-130-280-006-00	14-130-305-024-00
14-130-003-020-00	14-130-166-018-00	14-130-280-007-00	14-130-305-025-00
14-130-003-020-25	14-130-166-022-01	14-130-280-008-00	14-130-305-026-00
14-130-003-020-31	14-130-185-001-01	14-130-280-009-00	14-130-305-027-00
14-130-003-020-40	14-130-185-003-00	14-130-280-010-00	14-130-305-028-00
14-130-003-020-50	14-130-185-004-00	14-130-280-011-00	14-130-305-029-00
14-130-003-020-60	14-130-185-005-00	14-130-280-012-00	14-130-305-030-00
14-130-003-020-71	14-130-185-006-00	14-130-280-013-00	14-130-305-031-00
14-130-003-020-75	14-130-185-008-00	14-130-280-014-00	14-130-305-032-00
14-130-003-021-00	14-130-185-009-00	14-130-280-015-00	14-130-305-033-00
14-130-003-022-01	14-130-185-010-00	14-130-280-016-00	14-130-004-014-00
14-130-003-022-03	14-130-185-011-00	14-130-280-017-00	14-130-166-002-00
14-130-003-022-05	14-130-185-011-50	14-130-280-018-00	14-130-166-004-00
14-130-003-020-75	14-130-185-012-00	14-130-280-019-00	14-130-280-037-00
14-130-003-023-10	14-130-185-013-01	14-130-280-020-00	14-130-280-038-00
14-130-003-023-20	14-130-185-014-00	14-130-280-021-00	14-130-280-039-00
14-130-003-023-30	14-130-185-015-00	14-130-280-022-00	14-130-280-040-00
14-130-003-023-40	14-130-185-016-00	14-130-280-023-00	14-130-280-041-00
14-130-003-023-50	14-130-185-017-00	14-130-280-024-00	14-130-280-058-00
14-130-004-001-00	14-130-185-019-00	14-130-280-025-00	14-130-280-059-00
14-130-004-002-00	14-130-185-021-00	14-130-280-026-00	14-130-280-061-00
14-130-004-003-00	14-130-185-022-00	14-130-280-027-00	14-130-280-062-00
14-130-004-004-02	14-130-185-023-00	14-130-280-028-00	14-130-280-063-00
14-130-004-006-00	14-130-185-024-00	14-130-280-029-00	14-130-280-064-00
14-130-004-007-00	14-130-185-025-00	14-130-280-030-00	14-130-280-065-00
14-130-004-008-00	14-130-185-026-00	14-130-280-031-00	14-130-280-066-00
14-130-004-009-00	14-130-185-027-00	14-130-280-032-00	14-130-280-067-00
14-130-004-010-00	14-130-190-015-00	14-130-280-033-00	14-130-280-068-00
14-130-004-011-00	14-130-190-016-02	14-130-280-034-00	14-130-280-069-00
14-130-005-012-00	14-130-190-020-00	14-130-280-035-01	14-130-280-070-00
14-130-004-013-00	14-130-190-020-50	14-130-305-034-00	14-130-280-071-00
14-130-004-015-00	14-130-190-025-00	14-130-305-035-00	14-130-280-072-00
14-130-004-016-00	14-130-190-027-00	14-130-305-036-00	14-130-295-003-01
14-130-004-017-00	14-130-190-028-00	14-130-305-037-00	14-130-295-004-00
14-130-004-022-10	14-130-190-029-00	14-130-305-038-00	14-130-295-005-00
14-130-004-022-20	14-130-190-030-00	14-130-305-116-00	14-130-185-058-00
14-130-004-023-00	14-130-190-031-00	14-130-355-001-00	14-130-185-059-00
14-130-004-024-00	14-130-190-034-05	14-130-355-004-05	14-130-185-061-00
14-130-004-027-00	14-130-190-035-00	14-130-355-005-00	14-130-185-062-00
14-130-004-030-00	14-130-190-036-00	14-130-355-006-00	14-130-185-063-00
14-130-004-031-01	14-130-190-037-00	14-130-355-007-00	14-130-185-064-00
14-130-160-001-00	14-130-190-038-00	14-130-355-008-02	14-130-185-065-00
14-130-160-002-00	14-130-190-038-50	14-130-355-012-01	14-130-185-066-00
14-130-160-003-00	14-130-245-001-00	14-130-355-013-00	14-130-185-067-01
14-130-160-004-00	14-130-245-002-00	14-130-003-016-00	14-130-185-068-01
14-130-160-005-00	14-130-245-003-00	14-130-003-022-01	14-130-185-069-00
14-130-160-007-01	14-130-245-004-00	14-130-165-031-00	14-130-185-070-00
14-130-160-008-00	14-130-245-005-00	14-130-190-032-00	14-130-185-071-01
14-130-160-008-50	14-130-245-009-00	14-130-190-033-00	14-130-185-073-01
14-130-160-009-00	14-130-245-010-00	14-130-355-003-00	14-130-185-074-00
14-130-160-010-00	14-130-245-012-00	14-130-004-012-00	14-130-185-075-00
14-130-160-011-00	14-130-245-023-00	14-130-190-023-00	14-130-185-077-00
14-130-160-012-00	14-130-245-024-00	14-130-003-023-04	14-130-190-001-00
14-130-160-013-00	14-130-245-027-00	14-130-003-020-75	14-130-190-003-00
14-130-160-014-00	14-130-245-028-00	14-130-185-052-00	14-130-190-006-00
14-130-160-015-00	14-130-245-029-00	14-130-185-053-00	14-130-190-008-00
14-130-160-016-02	14-130-245-029-50	14-130-185-054-00	14-130-185-028-00
14-130-165-001-00	14-130-245-030-00	14-130-185-055-00	14-130-185-029-00
14-130-165-002-01	14-130-245-030-50	14-130-185-056-00	14-130-185-031-00
14-130-165-003-01	14-130-245-031-00	14-130-185-057-00	14-130-185-032-00
14-130-165-004-00	14-130-245-033-00	14-130-166-005-00	14-130-185-033-00
14-130-165-005-00	14-130-245-038-00	14-130-166-007-00	14-130-185-034-00
14-130-165-006-00	14-130-245-039-00	14-130-166-009-00	14-130-185-035-00
14-130-165-007-00	14-130-245-040-00	14-130-185-007-00	14-130-185-036-00
14-130-165-008-00	14-130-245-041-01	14-130-185-020-00	14-130-185-037-00
14-130-165-009-00	14-130-245-042-00	14-130-185-047-50	14-130-185-038-00
14-130-165-010-00	14-130-245-044-00	14-130-190-002-00	14-130-185-039-00
14-130-165-011-00	14-130-260-001-00	14-130-190-012-00	14-130-185-040-00
14-130-165-012-01	14-130-260-003-00	14-130-260-021-00	14-130-190-009-00
14-130-165-014-01	14-130-260-004-00	14-130-260-027-00	14-130-190-009-50
14-130-165-015-00	14-130-260-005-01	14-130-265-009-01	14-130-190-011-00
14-130-165-017-00	14-130-260-007-05	14-130-280-002-00	14-130-190-012-01
14-130-165-018-00	14-130-260-009-00	14-130-295-001-03	14-130-190-014-00
14-130-165-019-00	14-130-260-010-01	14-130-295-006-00	14-130-295-006-00
14-130-165-021-00	14-130-260-012-00	14-130-295-010-00	14-130-295-008-00
14-130-165-022-00	14-130-260-013-00	14-130-295-016-01	14-130-295-009-00
14-130-165-023-00	14-130-260-014-00	14-130-295-018-00	14-130-295-010-00
14-130-165-025-00	14-130-260-015-01	14-130-295-019-00	14-130-295-011-00
14-130-165-026-00	14-130-260-017-02	14-130-305-001-00	14-130-295-016-01
14-130-165-027-00	14-130-260-018-01	14-130-305-002-00	14-130-295-013-00
14-130-165-028-00	14-130-260-020-00	14-130-305-003-01	14-130-295-014-00
14-130-165-029-00	14-130-260-022-01	14-130-305-004-00	14-130-295-015-00
14-130-165-030-00	14-130-260-024-00	14-130-305-005-00	14-130-185-041-00
14-130-165-032-00	14-130-260-025-00	14-130-305-006-00	14-130-185-042-02
14-130-165-033-00	14-130-260-026-00	14-130-305-007-00	14-130-185-043-01
14-130-165-034-00	14-130-260-029-00	14-130-305-008-00	14-130-185-045-01
14-130-165-035-00	14-130-260-030-00	14-130-305-009-00	14-130-185-048-00
14-130-165-036-00	14-130-260-031-01	14-130-305-010-00	14-130-185-049-00
14-130-165-037-00	14-130-260-032-02	14-130-305-011-00	14-130-185-050-00
14-130-165-038-00	14-130-265-001-11	14-130-305-012-00	14-130-185-028-00
14-130-165-039-00	14-130-260-027-00	14-130-305-013-00	14-130-003-024-00
14-130-166-001-00	14-130-265-003-00	14-130-305-014-00	14-130-185-026-00
14-130-166-003-00	14-130-265-006-00	14-130-305-015-00	
14-130-166-004-00	14-130-265-036-00	14-130-305-016-00	

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received plans showing the proposed aquatic plant control project, associated activities, any proposed improvements and locations thereof, together with an estimate of the cost of the project. The Township Board has passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to undertake such project and to create the afore-described special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has placed the project plans and costs estimates on file with the Township Clerk and said plans, cost estimates and special assessment district may be examined at the Clerk's office from the date of this Notice to the date of the public hearing and may further be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board proposes to make a perparcel/per house special assessment each year for a period of five years (2026-2031 inclusive) in an amount to be determined periodically, which amount will be based on the scope of work planned for that year. The annual assessment is proposed to range between $25.00 to $75.00 per house. Additionally, the Township Board reserves the right to not levy an assessment or to levy a lesser assessment amount in any year that there are more funds in the special assessment fund than the amount needed for that year's aquatic plant control work and associated activities. The Township Board proposes to annually assess benefited properties for the costs of the aquatic plant control project (with associated activities), with only published notice each year, unless the amount to be specially assessed increases by more than 10% in any one year. If the amount to be specially assessed increases by more than 10% in any one year, then mailed notices of the public hearing on the reassessment would be provided to owners of record of property to be specially assessed.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the plans, district, and cost estimates for the 2026-2031 Magician Lake Aquatic Weed Control Special Assessment will be held at the Silver Creek Township Hall at 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI commencing at 6:30 p.m. on July 8, 2026.

At the hearing, the Board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the clerk at or before the hearing, and any objections or comments raised at the hearing; and at the hearing (or any adjournment of the hearing which may be made without further notice), the township board may revise, correct, amend or change the plans, cost estimates or special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if written objections to the project are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing, signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the area within the proposed special assessment district, then the township board may not proceed unless petitions in support of the project, signed by record owners of more than 50% of the area to be made into a special assessment district, are filed with the township. Written comments or objections may be filed with the clerk at the address set out below.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed.

An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file at or before the hearing his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. All interested persons are invited to be present in person or by representative and to submit comments concerning the establishment of the special assessment district, the plans, and cost estimates.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the township board determines to proceed with the special assessments, it will cause a special assessment roll to be prepared and another hearing will be held, after notice to record owners of property proposed to be specially assessed, to hear public comments concerning the proposed special assessments.

Silver Creek Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk.

Jess Honn, Clerk
Silver Creek Township
32764 Dixon Street
P.O. Box 464
Dowagiac, MI 49047
269-424-3025
www.silvercreektwpmi.gov

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 08, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Bethany Emborsky, unmarried woman Original Mortgagee: Guaranteed Rate, Inc. Date of mortgage: March 17, 2025 Recorded on March 25, 2025, Liber 1258, on Page 330, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Three and 70/100 Dollars ($129,793.70) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lots 89 and 90, Andrew Lester Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, page 53, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 116 Sherwood St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1595323 (06-06)(06-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Otis D Kirby and Krystle R Willming, joint tenants with full rights of survivorship
Original Mortgagee: Honor Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: August 3, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 6, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $98,940.19
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Pokagon, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point which is 24.64 rods South of a point which is 56.20 rods South 45 3/4 West from the most Westerly corner of Tuthill's Addition to the City of Dowagiac, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 46, Cass County Records; thence South 64 degrees West 7.96 rods; thence South to the East and West Quarter line of Section 2, Town 6 South, Range 16 West, thence East along said Quarter line 7.055 rods; thence North to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 29170 Pokagon St, Dowagiac, MI 49047-7703
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: June 13, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1595721 (06-13)(07-04)

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by MALINDA L. SPEICHER, a single woman, residing at 368 East Main Street, Marcellus, MI 49067 to OAK MORTGAGE, LLC. (n/k/a STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY), 125 E. Chicago Road, Sturgis, Michigan 49091 dated August 6, 2021, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on August 18, 2021, in Liber 1201 of Mortgages, on page 1648. There is claimed to be due on the date of this notice, for principal and interest the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Sixty-Seven and 23/100 ($116,267.23) Dollars due on the mortgage and no proceedings having been instituted to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgage, or any part thereof, whereby the power of sale contained in said Mortgage has become operative;

Now Therefore, Notice is Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgages and under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, the said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises therein described or so much thereof as may be necessary, at a public auction sale, to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, at the West outer door of the Courthouse in the City of Cassopolis and County of Cass, Michigan, that being the place of holding Circuit Court in and for said County, on July 15, 2026, at promptly 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day; which said mortgage premises are described as follows, to-wit: Lot 3, Block 1 South, Range 3 East, Village of Marcellus, according to the recorded plat in Liber 41 of Plats, Page 138, Cass County Records.

Property Address: 368 East Main Street, Marcellus, MI 49067 PIN: 14-051-551-003-00

Said premises will be sold to pay the amount as aforesaid then due on said Mortgage together with 2.875% percent interest on the Mortgage, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale. The amount due on said Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the last day to redeem the Sheriff's Deed will be January 15, 2027, however, if an Affidavit of Abandonment is filed with the Register of Deeds, the last day to redeem will be August 15, 2026, or until the time to provide the notice was required by MCL 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later.

If said property is in fact sold at the above-described foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the above listed Mortgagor will be responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to STURGIS BANK & TRUST COMPANY for damaging the property during the redemption period.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice.

ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: June 20, 2026 STURGIS BANK & TRUST
Mortgagee.
HaasCaywood PC
By: P. Joseph Haas, Jr.
Attorney for STURGIS BANK & TRUST
Business Address: 112 South Monroe Street
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-3281

POKAGON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
POKAGON TOWNSHIP HALL
30683 PEAVINE STREET
DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN 49047
PHONE: 269.782.8756
LEGAL NOTICE REGARDING PETITION FOR REZONING

TO PROPERTY OWNER OR PARTY IN INTEREST:
A Petition has been made to this BOARD by the POKAGON TOWNSHIP BOARD requesting the following:
A Rezoning Request from Pivot Energy MI on behalf of William Scott to rezone Parcel 14-110-004-082-00 located on M-62 Dowagiac, MI from current zoning of Ag Production to Ag Residential to allow the parcel to be utilized for a 4MWac ground- mount solar facility.
You are being contacted regarding this request inasmuch as you own and/or occupy parcels in the subject area.
On Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on this petition in the Pokagon Township Hall.
THIS NOTICE IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING YOU, AND EVERY OTHER NEIGHBOR-IN-INTEREST, AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PETITION.
You may appear on your own behalf, you may be assisted by an attorney, you may authorize others to represent you, or you may express your views in writing.
All written communications must be received prior to the date of hearing or be presented at the time of the hearing
If you have any questions concerning this case or wish any further information, please contact Pokagon Township Zoning Administrator Joe True at 269.782.8756.
POKAGON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Mary Schrader, Secretary

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Kyon Woodward, unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: June 5, 2024
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 17, 2024
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $64,643.93
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Dowagiac, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 7, Hoyt and Gardner's Addition to the City of Dowagiac, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 13, Cass County Records.
Common street address (if any): 210 S Lowe St, Dowagiac, MI 49047-1639
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: June 13, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1595361 (06-13)(07-04)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JULY 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Danny Banks II, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated September 26, 2008 and recorded October 8, 2008 in Liber 984, Page 501 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, National Association as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Two Thousand Thirty-Eight and 81/100 Dollars ($72,038.81).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JULY 15, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Ontwa, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot Number 93, the North Half of Lot 92, and the South half of Lot 94, Redfield Woods No. 2, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber I of Plats, page 434, Cass County Records.
70862 Sherman Rd, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: June 13, 2026
File No. 26-004938
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (06-13)(07-04)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on July 22, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Jamal B. Smith, whose address is 33602 Sassafras Lane, Eau Claire, Michigan 49111, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, being a mortgage dated October 20, 2023, and recorded on November 2, 2023 in Liber 1239 Page 389, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to SAIF Securitization Trust 2024-CES1, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated June 1, 2026 and recorded on June 8, 2026 in Liber 1277 Page 1443, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE AND 69/100 DOLLARS ($40,461.69). Said premises are situated in the Township of Silver Creek, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: Unit 19 in Indian Lake Woods Condominium, according to the Master Deed thereof, as recorded in Liber 847, Page 137, Cass County Records, and any amendments thereto and designated as Cass County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 12, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. Street Address: 33602 Sassafras Lane, Eau Claire, Michigan 49111 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: June 20, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490) Johnson, Blumberg & Associates LLC 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 312.541.9710 - Phone 312.541.9711 - Fax File No.: MI 26 7212 (06-20)(07-11)

VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
COUNTY OF CASS
STATE OF MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-266

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-255, ORDINANCE NO. 2017-256, AND ORDINANCE NO. 2020-260, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF 2026 WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM JUNIOR LIEN REVENUE BONDS BY THE VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE'S WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM, LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS, TOGETHER WITH ANY NECESSARY RIGHTS IN LAND AND APPURTENANCES THERETO; PRESCRIBING THE FORM OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF REVENUES FROM THE SYSTEM SUFFICIENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE SEGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES FROM THE SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE HOLDERS OF THE BONDS AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE BONDS AND THE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, it has been previously determined by the Village Council of the Village of Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan (the "Village" or the "Issuer"), that it is necessary for the public health and welfare of the Village to make certain improvements to the Village's water supply and sewage disposal system (the "System"), including, but not limited to: force main replacements, replacement and rehabilitation of manholes, and upgrades to lift stations, and paying engineering and financing costs (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the Project, including incidental expenses, and legal, financing, engineering and other related issuance costs, has been estimated by the Village's engineers, Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., to be a not-to-exceed amount of Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($9,500,000); and

WHEREAS, the Village Council previously adopted Ordinance No. 2016-255 on December 12, 2016 (the "2016 Bond Ordinance") to authorize issuance of Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2016, dated December 28, 2016, (the "2016 Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Village Council previously adopted Ordinance No. 2017-256, as adopted on October 9, 2017 (the "2017 Bond Ordinance") to authorize issuance of Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2017, dated November 24, 2017 (the "2017 Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Village Council previously adopted Ordinance No. 2020-260, as adopted on January 16, 2020 (the "2020 Bond Ordinance," and together with the 2016 Bond Ordinance and the 2017 Bond Ordinance, the "Prior Bond Ordinance") to authorize issuance of Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bonds, Series 2020, dated February 28, 2020 (the "2020 Bonds," and together with the 2016 Bonds and 2017 Bonds, the "Senior Lien Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the Village to finance all or a portion of the remaining cost of the Project through the further issuance of bonds; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain reasonable rates and charges and continue to provide sufficient funds for the operation and maintenance of the System and to provide for the acquisition and construction of the Project, the Village is authorized and does determine it to be in the best interests of the Village to issue junior lien revenue bonds, which shall be secured primarily by a statutory lien against the System's revenues, subordinate to the Senior Lien Bonds as provided by the Revenue Bond Act of 1933, Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended (MCL 141.101, et seq.) (the "Act"), and to be further secured by the full faith and credit pledge of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council determines that a portion of the cost of the Project is to be defrayed by the issuance of not to exceed Eight Million Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($8,015,000) 2026 Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds (the "2026 Junior Lien Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Village Council determines that it is in the best interests of the Village to finance all or a portion of the cost of the Project through the issuance of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds pursuant to the Clean Water Revolving Fund Program(s) (the "SRF Program") administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy ("EGLE"); and

WHEREAS, the Village intends to apply to the Michigan Department of Treasury (the "Department") for approval to issue the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, and all other things necessary for the authorization and issuance of revenue bonds under the Constitution and laws of the State of Michigan, ordinances and resolutions of the Village, and particularly the Act, have been done, and the Village is now empowered and desires to authorize the issuance of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council desires to negotiate the sale of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds to the Michigan Finance Authority (the "MFA" or the "Authority") as it is in the best interests of the Village to issue the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds through a negotiated sale to the MFA based upon the favorable terms and reduced costs of issuance that are available through the MFA pursuant to EGLE's SRF Program and to authorize the execution and delivery of any and all documents necessary to effectuate the sale and delivery of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds to the Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE VILLAGE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS ORDAINS:

1. Necessity; Cost Estimate; Useful Life. It is hereby determined and declared to be necessary for the public health and welfare of the residents of the Village to improve the System by constructing and acquiring the Project, and the Village Council determines that the estimated cost of the Project, including incidental expenses, will not exceed Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($9,500,000), and the period of usefulness of said improvements to be not less than thirty (30) years.

2. Payment of Costs. To a portion of the cost of acquiring and constructing the Project, including the payment of any bond discount and other costs of issuance, it is hereby determined that there be borrowed upon the credit of the income and revenues of the System, and as additional security, full faith and credit of the Village, shall be pledged the sum of not to exceed Eight Million Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($8,015,000), and that junior lien revenue bonds be issued therefor under the provisions of the Act. The remaining Project costs will be paid for from available Village funds on hand.

3. The Michigan Finance Authority. The Village Council, based upon consultations with and recommendations from its financial consultant and bond counsel, hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the Village to issue the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds through a negotiated sale to the MFA, rather than sell the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds at a public sale, based upon the favorable terms, including the interest rate(s) and reduced costs of issuance that are available through the MFA pursuant to EGLE's SRF Program. In the event that the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds are sold to the MFA, the following subprovisions shall apply:

(a) Purchase Contract. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds are hereby authorized to be sold to the MFA pursuant to the Act, Act 227 of 1985, Act 34 of 2001, and other applicable statutory provisions, and to bear an original issue date and bear interest at the rates as shall be determined by the Village President, Village Clerk, or Village Treasurer (each an "Authorized Officer"). In the event that the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds are sold to the MFA, the Issuer hereby approves, and an Authorized Officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver, the Purchase Contract, the Supplemental Agreement, the Revenue Sharing Pledge Agreement, if necessary and/or required by the MFA, and the Issuer's Certificate as provided by the MFA for the sale to the MFA of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, if, in the judgment of the Authorized Officer, the interest rate or rates on the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and other terms and conditions of the Purchase Contract and other agreements and certificates are within the parameters established in this Ordinance and in the best interests of the Village to accept.

(b) Discount. The Village hereby authorizes the sale of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds to the MFA at a discount of not to exceed five percent (5%), and an Authorized Officer is hereby authorized and directed to approve the specific discount offered by the MFA and the interest rates for the principal amount of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, if, in the Authorized Officer's judgment, the discount, interest rates, and principal amount of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds are in the best interests of the Village to accept.

(c) MFA's Depository. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance, so long as the MFA is the owner of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, (a) the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds are payable as to principal, premium, if any, and interest at the designated corporate trust office of the MFA's Depository, or at such other place as shall be designated in writing to the Issuer by the MFA; (b) the Issuer agrees that it will deposit with the MFA's Depository payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds in immediately available funds by 12:00 noon at least 5 business days prior to the date on which any such payment is due whether by maturity, redemption or otherwise; in the event that the MFA's Depository has not received the Issuer's deposit by 12:00 noon on the scheduled day, the Issuer shall immediately pay to the MFA as invoiced by the MFA an amount to recover the MFA's administrative costs and lost investment earnings attributable to that late payment; and (c) written notice of any redemption of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds shall be given by the Issuer and received by the MFA's Depository at least 40 days prior to the date on which such redemption is to be made.

In the event of a default in the payment of principal or interest thereon when due, whether at maturity, by redemption or otherwise, the amount of such default shall bear interest (the "additional interest") at a rate equal to the rate of interest which is two percent above the MFA's cost of providing funds (as determined by the MFA) to make payment on the bonds of the MFA issued to provide funds to purchase the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, but in no event in excess of the maximum rate of interest permitted by law. The additional interest shall continue to accrue until the MFA has been fully reimbursed for all costs incurred by the MFA (as determined by the MFA) as a consequence of the Issuer's default. Such additional interest shall be payable on the interest payment date following demand of the MFA. In the event that (for reasons other than the default in the payment of any municipal obligation purchased by the MFA) the investment of amounts in the reserve account established by the MFA for the bonds of the MFA issued to provide funds to purchase the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds fails to provide sufficient available funds (together with any other funds which may be made available for such purpose) to pay the interest on outstanding bonds of the MFA issued to fund such account, the Issuer shall and hereby agrees to pay on demand only the Issuer's pro-rata share (as determined by the MFA) of such deficiency as additional interest on the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds.

(d) Prior Redemption. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds may be subject to redemption prior to maturity by the Village only with the prior written consent of the MFA and on such terms as may be required by the MFA.

Notice of redemption of any bond shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for redemption by mail to the registered owner(s) at the registered address shown on the registration books kept by the Bond Registrar. 2026 Junior Lien Bonds shall be called for redemption in any denomination. The notice of redemption for bonds redeemed in part shall state that, upon surrender of the bond to be redeemed, a new bond or bonds in an aggregate principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the bond surrendered shall be issued to the registered owner thereof. No further interest payment on the bonds or portions of the bonds called for redemption shall accrue after the date fixed for redemption, provided funds are on hand with the Bond Registrar to redeem same.

(e) The Issuer hereby agrees to and approves the inclusion of the following terms and conditions in the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and other related closing documents and certificates in substantially the form as provided below:

(1) The Issuer promises to pay to the Authority the principal amount of the Bond or so much thereof as shall have been advanced to the Issuer pursuant to a Purchase Contract between the Issuer and the Authority and a Supplemental Agreement by and among the Issuer, the Authority and the State of Michigan acting through EGLE.

(2) Interest is first payable April 1, 2027 and semiannually thereafter, and principal is payable on the first day of October commencing October 1, 2028 (as identified in the Purchase Contract) and annually thereafter, or as otherwise approved by an Authorized Officer.

(3) The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds may be subject to redemption prior to maturity by the Issuer only with the prior written consent of the Authority and on such terms as may be required by the Authority.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bond, so long as the Authority is the owner of this Bond, (a) this Bond is payable as to principal, premium, if any, and interest at U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association or at such other place as shall be designated in writing to the Issuer by the Authority (the "Authority's Depository"); (b) the Issuer agrees that it will deposit with the Authority's Depository payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on this Bond in immediately available funds by 12:00 noon at least five business days prior to the date on which any such payment is due whether by maturity, redemption or otherwise; in the event that the Authority's Depository has not received the Issuer's deposit by 12:00 noon on the scheduled day, the Issuer shall immediately pay to the Authority an amount to recover the Authority's administrative costs and lost investment earnings attributable to that late payment; and (c) written notice of any redemption of this Bond shall be given by the Issuer and received by the Authority's Depository at least 40 days prior to the date on which such redemption is to be made.

(5) Additional Interest. In the event of a default in the payment of principal or interest hereon when due, whether at maturity, by redemption or otherwise, the amount of such default shall bear interest (the "additional interest") at a rate equal to the rate of interest which is two percent above the Authority's cost of providing funds (as determined by the Authority) to make payment on the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this Bond but in no event in excess of the maximum rate of interest permitted by law. The additional interest shall continue to accrue until the Authority has been fully reimbursed for all costs incurred by the Authority (as determined by the Authority) as a consequence of the Issuer's default. Such additional interest shall be payable on the interest payment date following demand of the Authority. In the event that (for reasons other than the default in the payment of any municipal obligation purchased by the Authority) the investment of amounts in the reserve account established by the Authority for the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this Bond fails to provide sufficient available funds (together with any other funds which may be made available for such purpose) to pay the interest on outstanding bonds of the Authority issued to fund such account, the Issuer shall and hereby agrees to pay on demand only the Issuer's pro rata share (as determined by the Authority) of such deficiency as additional interest on this Bond.

(6) During the time funds are being drawn down by the Issuer under this Bond, the Authority will periodically provide the Issuer a statement showing the amount of principal that has been advanced and the date of each advance, which statement shall constitute prima facie evidence of the reported information; provided that no failure on the part of the Authority to provide such a statement or to reflect a disbursement or the correct amount of a disbursement shall relieve the Issuer of its obligation to repay the outstanding principal amount actually advanced, all accrued interest thereon, and any other amount payable with respect thereto in accordance with the terms of this Bond.

(7) Such other standard terms and provisions as may be reasonably required by the Authority for 2026 Junior Lien Bonds issued pursuant to the SRF Program.

4. The Bonds. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds of the Issuer aggregating the principal sum of not to exceed Eight Million Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($8,015,000) shall be issued for the purpose of paying the cost of the Project. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds shall be designated "2026 Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds"; shall be dated the date of delivery; shall be fully registered 2026 Junior Lien Bonds as to principal and interest; shall be issued in any denomination approved by the Issuer and the Authority, shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be hereafter determined not exceeding 2.000% per annum, payable on April 1, 2027, and semiannually thereafter on the first day of October and April in each year; and shall mature on October 1 in each year as follows:

Year	Amount	Year	Amount
2028	$195,000	2043	$265,000
2029	200,000	2044	270,000
2030	205,000	2045	275,000
2031	210,000	2046	285,000
2032	215,000	2047	290,000
2033	220,000	2048	295,000
2034	225,000	2049	300,000
2035	225,000	2050	305,000
2036	230,000	2051	310,000
2037	235,000	2052	320,000
2038	240,000	2053	325,000
2039	245,000	2054	330,000
2040	250,000	2055	340,000
2041	255,000	2056	345,000
2042	260,000	2057	350,000

An Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to adjust the maturity schedule and the principal payment amounts, the interest payment dates, determine (after consultation with the Village's bond counsel and financial consultant) the priority of the statutory lien on from the revenues of the System, after provision has been made for reasonable and necessary expenses of operation, administration, and maintenance thereof (the "Net Revenues"), associated with the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, and/or reduce the principal amount of the borrowing as deemed necessary and reasonable to the Project.

5. Bond Execution. The Village President and Village Clerk are hereby authorized to manually sign, or cause their facsimile signatures to be affixed to, the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds in conformity with the above specifications and the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to deliver the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and to the purchaser thereof upon receipt of the purchase price and accrued interest, if any.

6. Bond Form. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds shall be in substantially the form as attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Village President and Village Clerk are authorized to execute the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds manually or by facsimile signature if authorized by law.

7. Authorized Officer Authority. An Authorized Officer, or a designee thereof, if permitted by law, is hereby authorized to:

(a) file with the Department within fifteen (15) business days after issuance of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, any and all documentation required subsequent to the issuance of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, together with any statutorily required fee.

(b) execute and file any necessary applications for approvals or waivers from the Department, the MFA, and/or EGLE.

8. Security for Bonds. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds hereby authorized, together with interest thereon, are payable primarily from the net income and revenues to be derived from the operation of the System on a subordinate basis to the outstanding Senior Lien Bonds. To pay such principal and interest as and when same shall become due, there is hereby created a statutory lien upon the whole of the Net Revenues of the System, to continue until the payment in full of the principal and interest on said 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and said revenues shall be set aside for that purpose as identified in the Prior Bond Ordinance. The full faith and credit of the Village, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act, shall be pledged as additional security for the payment of the Bonds when due, subject to existing constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations. In the event the revenues received from the operation of the System are insufficient to pay principal and interest on the Bonds when due, the Village will advance funds therefor from general funds of the Village and will, if necessary, levy taxes within applicable tax rate limitations for the prompt payment of principal and interest on the Bonds. Should the Village advance funds at any time for payment of the Bonds, it is entitled to be reimbursed from the first funds thereafter available for such purpose.

9. Rates and Charges. Prior to the issuance of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds, rates and charges for the services of said System will be fixed in an amount sufficient to pay the costs of operating and maintaining the System, and to provide sufficient revenue for principal and interest, debt service, replacement and improvement requirements and all other requirements provided herein, and otherwise comply with the covenants herein provided. The rates and charges for all services and facilities rendered by the System shall be reasonable and just, taking into consideration the costs and value of said System and the cost of maintaining, repairing and operating the same and the amounts necessary for the retirement of all 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and accruing interest on the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and such amounts as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the preceding section.

10. Additional Bonds. The 2026 Junior Lien Bonds authorized herein are "subordinate bonds" under the Prior Bond Ordinance, and all provisions of the Prior Bond Ordinance apply to the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds and are fully incorporated except and to the extent specifically modified by this Ordinance.

11. Financial Consultant. The financial consulting firm of Bendzinski & Co. Municipal Finance Advisors, is hereby appointed as financial consultants to the Village with reference to the issuance of the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds herein authorized.

12. Conflict and Severability. The Prior Bond Ordinance is specifically incorporated by reference, and all references to "the Bonds" in the Prior Bond Ordinance shall apply to the 2026 Junior Lien Bonds herein authorized. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all ordinances, resolutions and orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed, and each section of this Ordinance and each subdivision of any section thereof is hereby declared to be independent, and the finding or holding of any section or subdivision thereof to be invalid or void, shall not be deemed to affect the validity of any other section or subdivision of this Ordinance.

13. Section Headings. The section headings in this Ordinance are furnished for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered to be a part of this Ordinance.

14. Publication and Recordation. This Ordinance shall be published once in full in a newspaper of general circulation within the corporate limits of the Village, qualified under Michigan law to publish the legal notice, promptly after its adoption.

15. Effective Date. This Ordinance is hereby determined to be immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety of the Issuer and shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

APPROVED AND ENACTED by the Village Council of the Village of Cassopolis, County of Cass, State of Michigan, on June 22, 2026.

_____
Village President

Attest:

_____
Village Clerk
Village of Cassopolis

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Ordinance duly enacted by the Village Council of the Village of Cassopolis, County of Cass, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on Monday, the 22nd day of June, 2026, and that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by the Act.

I further certify that the following Village Council Members were present at the meeting:

Luckey, Kelly, Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yeader, Pedersen

and that the following Village Council Members were absent:

Makay

I further certify that Village Council Member Williams moved enactment of the Ordinance, and that the motion was supported by Village Council Member Luckey.

I further certify that the following Village Council Members voted for enactment of the Ordinance:

Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yeager, Pedersen, Luckey, Kelly

and that the following Village Council Members voted against enactment of the Ordinance:

_____

I further certify that the Ordinance has been recorded in the Ordinance Book and that the recording has been authenticated by the signatures of the Village President and the Village Clerk.

Village Clerk
Village of Cassopolis

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF CASS
VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
2026 WATER SUPPLY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM JUNIOR LIEN REVENUE BOND

Rate	Principal Amount	Maturity Date	Date of Original Issue
___%	$____ See Schedule A	_____, 2026	

REGISTERED OWNER:

VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS, STATE OF MICHIGAN (the "Issuer"), promises to pay to the Michigan Finance Authority (the "Authority" or "MFA"), primarily from the Net Revenues of the Issuer's water supply and sewage disposal system, including all appurtenances, additions, extensions and improvements thereto (the "System"), the Principal Amount of this Bond specified above, in lawful money of the United States of America on the Maturity Date specified above, with interest thereon from the Date of Original Issue specified above, or subsequent dates of the installment deliveries as shall have been advanced to the Issuer pursuant to a Purchase Contract between the Issuer and the Authority and a Supplemental Agreement by and among the Issuer, the Authority and the State of Michigan acting through the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, until paid at the Rate specified above (the "Bond" or "Bonds"), provided that the principal repayments required herein to be paid to the Authority shall not exceed the total of the principal installments received.

Interest is first payable _____ 1, 20__, and semiannually thereafter, and principal is payable on the first day of _____ commencing _____ 1, 20__ (as identified in the Purchase Contract) and annually thereafter.

This Bond is a single instrument, numbered 1, evidencing multiple annual maturities delivered in installments aggregating the principal amount of $_____, is payable in installments as set forth in Schedule A, and is issued pursuant to Ordinance No. 2016-255, as adopted on December 12, 2016, Ordinance No. 2017-256, as adopted on October 9, 2017, and Ordinance No. 2020-260, as adopted on January 16, 2020, and Ordinance No. 2026 - _____, enacted by the Village Council of the Issuer on June 22, 2026 (collectively, the "Ordinance"), and under and in full compliance with the constitution and statutes of the State of Michigan, including specifically Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, and Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of the cost of acquiring and constructing certain improvements to the System.

This Bond is a self-liquidating bond and is payable, both as to principal and interest, primarily from the revenues of the System on a subordinate basis to the outstanding Senior Lien Bonds, as defined in the Ordinance, after provision has been made for reasonable and necessary expenses of operation, administration and maintenance thereof (the "Net Revenues"), and the Net Revenues are hereby irrevocably pledged and a statutory lien thereon is hereby recognized and created, subordinate to the first lien securing the Senior Lein Bonds. The principal of and interest on this Bond are secured by that statutory lien. The Issuer, in addition to the foregoing, has pledged its full faith and credit subject to applicable constitutional, statutory and charter tax rate limitations, for the repayment of the Bonds. In case of an insufficiency of the Net Revenues of the System, this Bond is payable from the general funds of the Issuer. For a complete statement of the revenues from which, and the conditions under which, this Bond is payable, a statement of the conditions under which additional bonds of equal standing may hereafter be issued, and the general covenants and provisions pursuant to which this Bond is issued, reference is made to the Ordinance.

The Issuer has covenanted and agreed and does hereby covenant and agree to (a) fix and maintain at all times while any bonds, including any principal installments of this Bond, payable from the Net Revenues of the System shall be outstanding, such rates for service furnished by the System as shall be sufficient to provide for payment of the interest upon and the principal of this Bond and any additional bonds of equal standing payable from the Net Revenues of the System as and when the same become due and payable, (b) create a bond and interest redemption account therefor, (c) provide for the payment of expenses of administration and operation and such expenses for maintenance of the System as are necessary to preserve the same in good repair and working order, and (d) provide for such other expenditures and funds for the System as are required by the Ordinance.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bond, so long as the Authority is the owner of this Bond, (a) this Bond is payable as to principal, premium, if any, and interest at U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association or at such other place as shall be designated in writing to the Issuer by the Authority (the "Authority's Depository"); (b) the Issuer agrees that it will deposit with the Authority's Depository payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on this Bond in immediately available funds by 12:00 noon at least five business days prior to the date on which any such payment is due whether by maturity, redemption or otherwise; in the event that the Authority's Depository has not received the Issuer's deposit by 12:00 noon on the scheduled day, the Issuer shall immediately pay to the Authority as invoiced by the Authority an amount to recover the Authority's administrative costs and lost investment earnings attributable to that late payment; and (c) written notice of any redemption of this Bond shall be given by the Issuer and received by the Authority's Depository at least 40 days prior to the date on which such redemption is to be made.

In the event of a default in the payment of principal or interest hereon when due, whether at maturity, by redemption or otherwise, the amount of such default shall bear interest (the "additional interest") at a rate equal to the rate of interest which is two percent above the Authority's cost of providing funds (as determined by the Authority) to make payment on the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this Bond but in no event in excess of the maximum rate of interest permitted by law. The additional interest shall continue to accrue until the Authority has been fully reimbursed for all costs incurred by the Authority (as determined by the Authority) as a consequence of the Issuer's default. Such additional interest shall be payable on the interest payment date following demand of the Authority. In the event that (for reasons other than the default in the payment of any municipal obligation purchased by the Authority) the investment of amounts in the reserve account established by the Authority for the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this Bond fails to provide sufficient available funds (together with any other funds which may be made available for such purpose) to pay the interest on outstanding bonds of the Authority issued to fund such account, the Issuer shall and hereby agrees to pay on demand only the Issuer's pro rata share (as determined by the Authority) of such deficiency as additional interest on this Bond.

During the time funds are being drawn down by the Issuer under this Bond, the Authority will periodically provide the Issuer a statement showing the amount of principal that has been advanced and the date of each advance, which statement shall constitute prima facie evidence of the reported information; provided that no failure on the part of the Authority to provide such a statement or to reflect a disbursement or the correct amount of a disbursement shall relieve the Issuer of its obligation to repay the outstanding principal amount actually advanced, all accrued interest thereon, and any other amount payable with respect thereto in accordance with the terms of this Bond.

This Bond may be subject to redemption prior to maturity by the Issuer only with the prior written consent of the Authority and on such terms as may be required by the Authority.

It is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required by law to be done precedent to and in the issuance of this Bond have been done, have happened and have been performed in regular and due time and form as required by law. Further, the total indebtedness of the Issuer, including this Bond, does not exceed any constitutional, statutory or charter limitation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Village of Cassopolis, County of Cass, State of Michigan, by its Village Council, has caused this Bond to be signed in its name by the manual signature of its Village President and to be countersigned by the manual signature of its Village Clerk, and its corporate seal or a facsimile thereof to be hereunto affixed, all as of _____, 2026.

VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
COUNTY OF CASS
(Seal) STATE OF MICHIGAN

By:_____
Village President

Countersigned:

_____
Village Clerk

OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Robin Hood's tree is dead

Ancient oak tree said to have sheltered famous character from England has died at 1,200 years

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LONDON — A massive ancient oak tree linked to the legend of Robin Hood has met its death.

The 1,200-year-old Major Oak in Sherwood Forest is believed to have died after it didn't sprout leaves this spring, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said last Thursday.

Visitors over the past two centuries who viewed the tree's gnarled limbs and sprawling canopy in Nottingham compressed the soil, making it difficult for rain to reach its roots, the conservation group said.

The forest has been under threat for years and the tree had been rumored to have died in the past – only to have the group confirm it was still alive.

That is no longer the case.

"The tree's failure to produce leaves this year is heartbreaking for everyone," Hollie Drake of the RSPB said in a statement announcing the death.

The tree is said to have sheltered Robin Hood, the legendary 13th-century bandit who stole from the rich and gave to the poor and took refuge in the forest when being pursued by the sheriff of Nottingham.

It got its name after being mentioned in a book on oaks by Major Hayman Rooke in 1790 that led to the first wave of fans who flocked to the forest.

It's impossible to say what killed the tree, but the footprints of millions contributed to its downfall, along with intervention to shore up its massive limbs using cables and poles. Climate change that has brought heat waves and drought was also blamed.

Tree experts, it should be noted, found the root system strangled and starved.

"Ancient trees like the Major Oak are the 'conservation white rhinos of the U.K.' but their decline is far less visible," said Ed Pyne, of the Woodland Trust. "Saving them is vital to the health of the world we live in and yet most disappear quietly, without the recognition or care given to the Major Oak."

In addition to its place in folklore, the forest is known for Sherwood oaks that floated the ships of Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson's Royal Navy in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and as timbers in the roof of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

The Major Oak was spared from the saw and has been protected by a fence since the 1970s.

"The Major Oak will continue to stand at the heart of Sherwood as a natural monument for visitors to come and see, living on in the legend of Robin Hood and continuing to provide as much support to the forest's ecosystem in death as in life," Drake said.

Photos by Simon Dawson / AP

A 1,200-year-old oak tree, which Robin Hood allegedly used as a hide out, stands in Sherwood Forest near Nottinghamshire, England. BELOW: A different angle of the same tree, looking from the ground up to the sky.

Study: Heat waves increase wildfire risk, and it's not by a little

THE CONVERSATION

When heat waves hit the Western United States, the risk of wildfires quickly rises. The prolonged heat dries out vegetation, but that's only part of the cause – heat waves also play other roles in spreading wildfires.

In a new study, our team of fire and climatescientists looked at two decades of wildfire activity in the West, from 2001 to 2024, and for the first time quantified the effect of heat waves on those fires.

We expected a big impact, but the numbers still surprised us: While heat waves, which we defined as three or more consecutive days with temperatures in the top tenth of hottest days, accounted for only 12 percent to 15 percent of warm-season days, we found that 42 percent of all the area burned by fires had occurred during or right after a heat wave.

Moreover, the amount of the area that burned each day was more than 50 percent larger during heat waves than during the cooler days right before the heat wave began in many parts of the West. In some regions, the difference was much larger – up to 300 percent.

How heat waves worsen fire risk

Heat waves create conditions that favor wildfire ignition and spread in a few ways.

First, hot temperatures increase the atmosphere's demand for moisture, meaning the rate at which the air can evaporate moisture from the land and vegetation. As a result, these fuels rapidly dry out, making them easier to ignite.

Heat waves also limit nighttime humidity. The drier air allows fires to remain active for longer periods and burn through more hours of the night.

Making matters worse, heat waves can create conditions favorable for lightning because of the hot, unstable atmosphere. We found increases in cloud-to-ground lightning, including "dry" lightning, during and after heat waves across many parts of the West.

Dry lightning can occur when the precipitation in a storm system evaporates before it reaches the ground. This type of lightning is particularly dangerous because it can ignite vegetation without producing enough rainfall to douse the flames.

These factors combine to heighten the risk of wildfires. That risk often persists even after the heat wave ends, as dry vegetation and dead material on the ground tend to remain unusually dry for days after temperatures return closer to normal – allowing fires to continue growing.

Trends in heat and fires

The connection between heat waves and wildfire activity is becoming increasingly important because heat waves are becoming more common as global temperatures rise, fueled by greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 2001, the number of heat wave days across Western U.S. forests has nearly doubled. During the same period, the amount of forest area burned increased by 2.5 times. Strikingly, without the increase in heat wave days since 2001, we found that the cumulative are of burned forest would have been 37 percent smaller.

However, not all ecosystems respond the same way.

While we found a strong long-term relationship between increasing heat waves and burned area in forests, this was not the case in grasslands and shrublands, where the total burned area has not increased. In grasslands and shrublands, the amount of land that burns in a given year is influenced more strongly by the amount of available vegetation than by heat alone.

A future with even drier heat waves

Climate change is causing Western U.S. summers to trend hotter and drier. This is not good news at all. Consequently, relative humidity during heat waves has also declined in recent decades, especially in forested regions of California, Oregon and Washington.

These drier heat waves appear particularly effective at increasing wildfire activity. Alongside long-standing fire deficits, which resulted from the practice of quickly extinguishing fires rather than allowing low-level fires to burn away forest debris, these factors have escalated the potential for large fires in the West.

Wildfire forecasts already account for factors such as wind, humidity and fuel dryness, but they typically have not included heat waves. Our research suggests that heat waves deserve greater attention, as they are not just periods of uncomfortable and sometimes deadly weather, but are also increasingly important drivers of wildfire risk.

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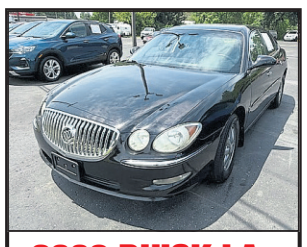

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